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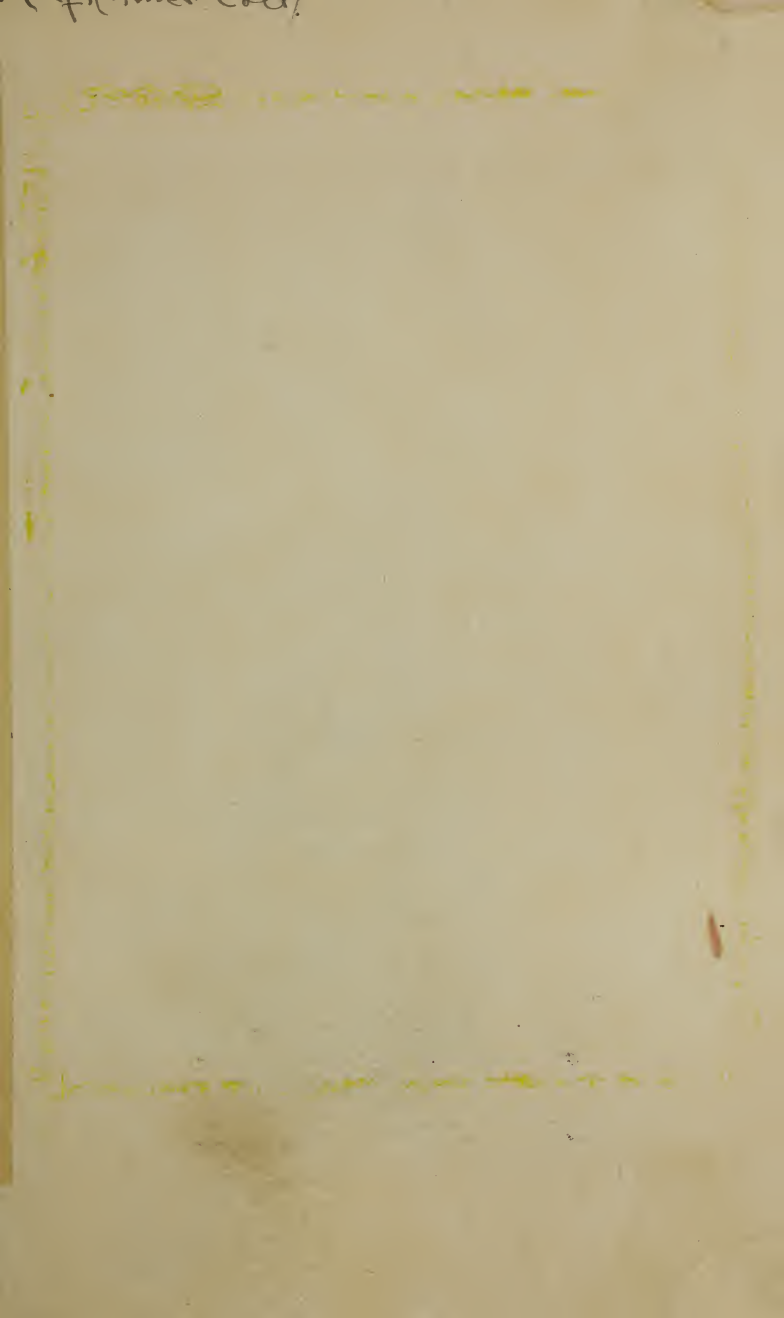
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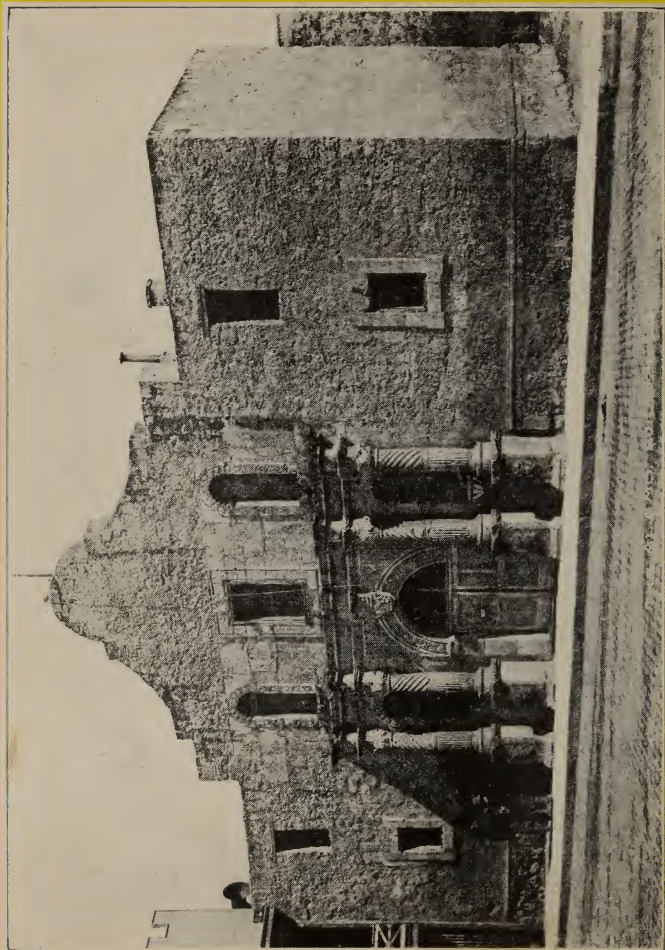
Taylor, Henry Ryder-
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the local Franciscan
missions

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THE ALAMO OF TODAY.

HISTORY OF
THE ALAMO

AND OF THE LOCAL
Franciscan Missions

BY

HENRY RYDER-TAYLOR

(For twenty-four years with the
San Antonio Daily Light and two
years with the Two Republics,
City of Mexico.)

Assisted by

CHAS. H. STANFORD

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DEDICATION.

TO THE

Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

This Volume is respectfully dedicated
. . . in commendation of . . .

THEIR PATRIOTIC EFFORTS

TO HONOR THE

ILLUSTRIOUS HEROES

WHO FOUNDED AND CREATED

THE LONE STAR STATE.

TEXAN HISTORIC NOTES

Showing how Texas was
colonized by Americans,
the causes that lead the
colonists to rebel against
Mexico and how they
gained their independence.



BY

HENRY RYDER-TAYLOR

Texan Historic Notes.

AS this little book will be read with interest by many visitors, and will probably be preserved as a souvenir, the author has thought it desirable that a brief synopsis of Texan history should be presented inasmuch as those facts give a keynote to the many wondrous events that adorn the records of the Lone Star State. In this article he presents only those facts that are attested to by unquestioned authorities. There has been "nothing extenuated nor ought set down in malice."

DISCOVERY OF TEXAS.

The discovery of Texas has been disputed. It is claimed by both Spain and France, but it would seem more probable that Spain should find territory adjoining her own, even though separated by the Rio Grande, which is often fordable, and by the sea. It is a matter of legend that Pinda visited even Galveston in 1519, but we have as a fact that in 1582 Espijo crossed the Rio Grande and founded missions at El Paso and at Santa Fe. This establishes Spain's claim as "the discoverer of Texas."

LA SALLE'S EXPEDITION.

France based her claim to the discovery of Texas on the fact that an adventurous French knight, Robert, cavalier de la Salle, in seeking the source of the Mississippi was accidentally thrown into the bay of Matagorda, sailed through Pass Cavallo, entered the bay of St. Bernard and camped upon the coast. He then took possession of it in the name of his sovereign, Louis XIV.

But that was in February, 1665, or nearly one hundred years after Espijo had founded his mission in Texas.

The French were enchanted with the beautiful scenery, the delightful climate and the merry, feathered songsters that thronged the trees and made the air, perfumed by many flowers, most musical. Moreover they found here abundance of game, fish and other necessities, and, above all, spring waters of crystalline purity.

But in Texas there is no rose or good thing without a thorn, real or figuratively, and so the French found it. The Indians resented their invasion and were troublesome, and there was some sickness incidental to climatic changes. Ammunition ran short and there was dissention in camp. The party then decided to go to Lavacca and there built a fort which was called Fort St. Louis, in honor of the French king, Louis XIV. The fort was built for a protection from Indians.

For a time all went well and prosperity reigned, but La Salle and some of his companions were anxious to continue the pursuit of the source of the Mississippi, and left. Subsequent history shows that La Salle prosecuted his mission faithfully, but he was assassinated by one of his own men and his labors thus ended.

La Salle's personality and force had a good influence on the Indians. When he left and the garrison was weakened the Indians attacked Fort St. Louis, captured it and killed or captured its inhabitants, holding the latter as prisoners.

SPANISH RESISTANCE.

News travelled slowly in those days, and especially at such a distance, but at length the Spanish Government heard of "the French invasion." Recognizing and claiming Texas as Spanish territory, it was determined to attack the French and oust them from the state. For this purpose

one hundred expert soldiers were selected and they proceeded to Fort St. Louis. On arrival there it was completely evacuated. The story of its capture by Indians was told and two of La Salle's men were found among Indians.

SAN ANTONIO FOUNDED 1689.

This incident had a remarkable bearing upon the history of San Antonio. Don Alonzo de Leon, governor of Coahuila, was in charge of the expedition against La Salle and, having filled his mission, decided to go farther into the interior of the country to investigate. In so doing he came upon what we know as San Antonio, which was then peopled by the Nassonites, who came from Mexico on their defeat by the Aztecs and had settled there. These Indians were called by the Spaniards *Sanez Payez y Vanos*. De Leon was received with the cries of "Tejas! Tejas!" which he understood to be a welcome. That was in 1689. He was so delighted with the place and its utility that he established a mission here and placed Fra Damien in charge, calling the mission as "San Francisco de Tejas" (St. Francis of Texas).

Governor Domingo de Teran succeeded De Leon, and, it is said, became interested in Texas. He visited the mission and gave it his approval but changed its name to "San Francisco de la Espada" (St. Francis of the Sword). This it is stated was owing to the sword like shape of the bell tower. The site of this mission is said to have been near the modern Mission de la Espada, if not actually on it, as some suppose.

For some reason, never explained, the mission work was abandoned in 1693 until early in the eighteenth century. These missions, it should be remembered, not only took the place of a church but, being strongly built, with thick

walls of adobe or stone, they afforded protection from marauding, hostile Indians and for those days were good forts.

FRANCE AND SPAIN CONTESTS.

For a long time the Spanish government ignored Texas, and might longer have been apathetic but for the fact that the king of France granted the whole of Louisiana to one Crozat and this included Texas, of which France still claimed sovereignty. By Crozat's advice, another French adventurer, St. Denis, was sent to Texas and Mexico with twelve followers, ostensibly on a trading expedition. They got to Presidio and were there arrested on the order of Governor Anaya, of Coahuila, and all were imprisoned. It is recorded that St. Denis escaped but nothing more was heard from his companions. When we hear that St. Denis soon after married the governor's daughter we are not mystified as to his escape. St. Denis has the credit of doing one good thing, that is laying out the road from the San Antonio to Presidio on the Rio Grande.

The Spanish government began to wake up and to realize that to hold Texas she must protect it. Then came activity, a desire to found colonies, establish missions, to care for the people and secure support. In accordance with its mission policy the missions of San Fernando de Bexar (San Antonio), La Bahia (Goliad), Nacogdoches and Victoria were established.

Immigration was cared for because the results of immigration had been unsatisfactory and in twenty-five years only fifteen hundred people could be enlisted in the Texan ranks.

In 1716 St. Denis made another trade raid for Crozat to the Rio Grande. He was defrauded of his goods, thrown into prison and was glad to escape with his wife to Mobile.

The company of the Indians secured Crozat's rights.

There was war between France and Spain and it got St. Denis and another French adventurer, La Harpe, to organize a troop and invade Texas. They advanced near San Antonio where they met the Mexicans, 500 strong, under the Governor, the Marquis de Aguayo. St. Denis retreated to the Sabine and went home. La Harpe found shelter with friendly Indians.

The company then sent an expedition under M. de Belisle to found a colony at Matagorda bay. He failed and returned. Belisle made a second attempt accompanied by La Harpe, and also failed.

St. Denis made a last attempt on the pretext that Indians were rising to exterminate the whites, and he invaded the Natchez territory, subduing it. He remained in triumphant possession for some time and then Governor Bustillos went on an inspection and caught up with the adventurers and they fled, and no longer were a factor in Texan history.

As all these acts were based upon the French claim to Texas we have placed them in consecutive line and got rather ahead of our story. The question of the rights of Spain and France was settled in 1762 by France ceding all her Louisiana possessions to Spain, but in 1800 Spain again transferred Louisiana to France, who in 1804 sold them to the United States. This controversy was settled except that many are of an opinion that Texas was and should have been included in the Louisiana purchase.

We must now return to Texas history and briefly unfold its story.

COMMERCIAL INVASION.

Commerce in the 18th century opened, as it ever has done, as a missionary of civilization. The French settlers at Natchez began to trade in Texas through Nacogdoches

and the trade extended. Then reports began to be circulated of the salubrious climate, the greatness of the resources, the plentitude of fish and game and of the El Dorado that Texas presented. Anticipating a rich harvest, many leading men of Louisiana settled in Nacogdoches and others followed. Nacogdoches soon rose from a little mission station to an important town, having an arsenal, barracks and substantial buildings. It was long regarded as a hot bed of conspirators against the domination of Spain.

COLONIZING TEXAS.

For many years Mexico had ignored Texas but the French incursions into Texas incited action in Spain and the Viceroy in Mexico to resist the efforts. Then early in the 18th century the government began the erection of missions, for the education and protection of the people, and to create presidios and garrison them. Thus the missions in or near San Antonio were erected. This village was named San Fernando de Bexar and in 1718 it was evidently a military post, for De Alarconne operated from that point. In 1730 a presidio was erected where San Antonio now is, and it was named Bexar in honor of the Duke of Bexar, then the Spanish Viceroy in Mexico. Missions or presidios were also established at La Bahia (Goliad) Nacogdoches and Victoria.

The population consisted then mainly of two classes of Indians—the Indios reducidos, those domesticated and submitting to the government, and the Indios bravos, who were those in a savage, independent state. No real progress was made nor was it probable under those conditions.

CANARY ISLAND COLONY.

The Spanish government in a wise view began to lay plans for the settlement of the state and on the recom-

mendation of the Marquis Casa Fuertes sent sixteen families from the Canary Islands.

These settled in San Antonio and were granted lands on the Plaza de los Islas, now known as Main Plaza, and they prospered well. These were the original white civil settlers and progenitors of the leading Spanish citizens. Some emigration came from Mexico, official and otherwise, but little progress was made and in 25 years the population of Texas was only six thousand, excluding the many Indians.

AMERICAN INVASION.

Then Texas had a series of American invasions by adventurers and free booters who claimed that Texas belonged to Louisiana, and made an attempt to wrest it from Spain. The first was the Nolan expedition, headed by Philip Nolan, Ellis Bean and consisting of 18 men. They left Natchez in 1800 on the pretext of hunting wild horses. The Spanish viceroy did not believe the story and ordered arrest of the party, but the arrest was avoided by its entering Texas at an unexpected point. It, however, was met by Lieutenant Musquiz and 100 Mexican soldiers, sent from the Bexar presidio. The Nolan party resisted arrest and a fight ensued. Nolan fell at the first fusilade and then the party surrendered, on condition of being sent back on parole to the United States. The members were, however, put in chains and sent, via Bexar, to the Rio Grande, and thence to the City of Mexico. As far as can be learned Bean was the only one that returned home.

There were other minor expeditions of a like character, equally unsuccessful, and then Governor Cordero, Manuel Salcedo and Simon de Herrera began to take steps for the better protection of the state. Cordero put a good garrison at Bexar; Salcedo well garrisoned La Bahia and Herrera crossed and occupied the old fort of Adaes. The

latter act gave offense to the United States and war was threatened but it was averted by declaring a small strip of land between the Sabine and the Bayou, called the Arroyo Hondo, should be declared neutral territory and not occupied by any one until the boundary line was decided.

In 1812 this neutral zone was the resort of bandits, free booters and refugees from justice, and the United States was frequently called upon to protect merchants' caravans. Lieut. Magee was often called on for such duty and met Bernardo Gutierrez, a Mexican who had been associated with the famous Hidalgo in the Mexican revolutionary movement, and then came the project to unite these inhabitants of the zone into an army, invade Texas, conquer it and make it a free and independent state. The army was so organized and numbered three hundred men. It was styled as the Republican Army of the North. In the conflict this army was known as "Republicans" and the Mexicans as Royalists. The army marched on to La Bahia, entered that Fort in September and in November were attacked by Governor Salcedo and General Herrera, of Bexar. They failed to capture the fort and then tried to starve out the garrison. This too failed, the siege was raised and Salcedo and soldiers returned to Bexar. Magee died next day and Kempner was elected to the supreme command. The success of the Republicans got abroad and 125 Americans and 25 Coshattie Indians joined the Republicans coming from Nacogdoches. The march on to San Antonio was then begun. At the Salado they were re-inforced by three hundred Lipan and Tonkawa Indians, and then had an army of about 1,400 men.

REVOLUTIONIST CAPTURE BEXAR.

On the arrival of the Republicans at Rosillo, about nine miles from Bexar, Salcedo, who had been re-inforced, at-

tacked them and was defeated, he and many of his officers being made prisoners. The Republicans then marched into Bexar and took possession of it.

MEXICAN JUNTA.

Gutierrez organized a junta or governing body. Among these was an officer named Delgado. His father had been associated with Hidalgo in the Mexican revolution, and when it failed, he fled to Bexar. Here he was arrested, sentenced to death, decapitated and his head placed on a pole. This was done by Salcedo's orders, and the younger Delgado, thirsted for a bloody revenge, in which it is said Gutierrez concurred. They knew that the Americans would never consent to the violation of the capitulation, for the prisoners had surrendered as prisoners of war. On the pretext of taking the prisoners to New Orleans for better keeping, they were kept chained with a guard in command of Delgado. When a little way from the presidio the guards, at a pre-concerted signal, attacked the prisoners and decapitated them. Among the prisoners so massacred were Governor Salcedo, General Simon de Herrera, his brother, Col. Geronimo Herrera, Ex Governor Cordera and ten officers.

This crime incensed the Americans and created dissension. Kempner, Hall, Ross and others abandoned the army, and Perry was elected commander. The army became disorganized and indulged in vicious pleasures that boded no good.

A month later another Spanish army of 3,000 men approached, under command of General Elisondo. He could have taken the city by surprise but he deferred, making elaborate preparation for the attack. This gave the Republicans time to organize. Perry rallied the Americans and Gutierrez and Manchaca secured considerable Mexican

aid. Then they rushed on the Royalists in a most impetuous way. The fight was long and stubborn but the Republicans gained the victory, and the Royalists fled to the Rio Grande, leaving a thousand soldiers on the field either dead or wounded.

MEXICANS IN COMMAND.

Gutierrez then returned to his home on the Sabine and Perry ceased to command. Then came a Spanish exile, Don Juan Alvarez Toledo, who was elected commander. Being assured the royalists would return he organized for the defense, established a junta, formed a city police and restored the civil law. His administration was wise, just and judicious.

General Arredondo, commander of the eastern internal provinces, determined on an attempt to recapture Bexar. He organized an army of 4,000 men and was re-inforced by Elisondo and the remnant of his army. The general then marched his men to the Medina, erected breast works in a V shape, opening towards the city and waited.

Although all that could be done had been done the republicans were not in form to meet such an overwhelming force. There were dissensions too. Toledo was a Gachapin, a class not liked by many soldiers who wanted Manchaca to lead them and obeyed Toledo with open reluctance. There was an absence of discipline that was disastrous.

Instead of waiting Arredondo's attack, in which Toledo would have had the advantage, the republican commander began the attack. It was a fatal mistake. Soon the republicans were drawn into the jaws of the royalist breastwork, ambushed and many were killed. The Republicans rallied and might possibly have won the victory but some Mexicans deserted and gave Arredondo impor-

tant information. Knowing they were betrayed and overwhelmed by force the Republicans became demoralized and their relentless foe cut them down with terrific slaughter and Arredondo and his men marched as victors into Bexar, Elisondo, smarting under his recent defeat, pursued fleeing Republicans and killed them. At Spanish Bluff he captured eighty and butchered them in revenge

SPANISH VENGEANCE.

Arredondo began his administration in a most cruel way. He placed the presidio and village under military law and had many imprisoned without trial. Some were executed, but others, after a term of imprisonment, were permitted to go free. He caused three hundred citizens to be placed in a room one sultry August night and eighteen of them suffocated. The women were also severely and shamefully punished. Five hundred women, including delicate ladies, were confined in prison 'La Quinta' and for four months, they were compelled daily to convert twenty-four bushels of corn into tortillas—a cake used as a substitute for bread—for Arredondo's soldiers. Elisondo returned from the Trinity driving before him widows and fatherless of those he had slain. Arredondo had gathered up and buried all that remained of Salcedo and his staff, avenging their murders.

Arredondo governed with severity and was especially rough on Americans, whom he openly detested, and Americans could not leave without danger of being shot.

In time Arredondo had to leave for his headquarters Monterey, Mexico, and was succeeded by several governors, who were equally consistent in their hatred of Americans but in time a better sense of justice and humanity prevailed.

LONG'S EXPEDITION.

Another ill-starred American invasion occurred in 1819. It was that of Dr. James Long, which started from Natchez June 17. General Arredondo sent Col. Perez and a force of Mexicans to expel the invaders. The opposing forces met. Dave Long, the leader's brother, and many others were killed. Dr. Long and a few companions escaped. Later Dr. Long made a second invasion and attempted to capture La Bahia. He met a superior force, was defeated, taken prisoner and conveyed to the City of Mexico. Fortunately for him the government was then in the hands of Republicans and he secured his freedom, but before he could return home he was assassinated.

This was the last American military attempt to capture Texas excepting that of the Texas colonists and during the Civil War.

MOSES AUSTIN'S COLONY.

It was designed that Texas should be conquered by American colonization, even though bloodshed must follow.

Moses Austin, a native of Connecticut, but then of Mississippi, had heard much of Texas, its climate, its riches and had decided to go there and arrange for the settlement of a colony in that state. He went to San Antonio de Bexar in 1820, to see Governor Antonio Martinez. The governor had no love for Americans, peremptorily declined the request and threatened imprisonment if Austin did not at once leave the State. Austin was prepared to do so, but fortunately on the way from the Palacio he encountered Baron Bastrop, with whom he was acquainted and who was a close friend to the Governor. Austin told his mission and its result and then the Baron promised to aid him. The Baron saw Governor Martinez, placed Austin's project in such a favorable light that the governor promis-

ed to use all efforts to get the desired permit. In due time the permit was granted and Austin returned home, giving notice that all those who decided to join the colony should meet him at Natchez at the end of May 1821. By that time he was taken ill and died June 10. Like his namesake, the illustrious Jewish leader, he was permitted to see the promised land, but could never occupy it.

STEPHEN AUSTIN SUCCEEDS.

His son, Stephen F. Austin, decided to continue the good work of his father, and having been duly recognized by the government, took charge of the colonists and they arrived at Brazos river, on Dec. 21, 1821, and came to Austin creek (near Brenham) on New Year's day 1822. Here they exploited the county, laid out San Felipe and the colonists began to find settlements.

Austin failed to receive official confirmation and assistance that were promised and to secure this he went on horseback to the City of Mexico—1200 miles distance—beset with manifold dangers. He arrived safely and then, owing to political revolutions and eruptions, common in those days, it was a year before he got the necessary papers.

After this every thing went on smoothly. The colonists settled down and the government showed every desire to aid them. Austin was made chief judge and Baron Bastrop was appointed commissioner to issue land titles and this was done as fast as surveys could be made.

LIBERAL PROVISIONS.

Legislation was also favorable. Texas and Coahuila were made one of the federated, independent states. Mexico and Texas was entitled to two representatives and state headquarters were in Bexar and easy of access.

The Colonization law of Yturvide and national laws of 1824 guaranteed foreigners protection to life and pro-

perty. Ten coast leagues on the borders of the United States were reserved for location. Every family was allowed one league of land (4428 acres) for grazing and one labor (177 acres) for cultivation. Single men were allowed one-third league to be increased to a league on marriage. If any erected mills or made improvements of public utility they were entitled to a handsome subsidy. Merchants and mechanics were granted town lots for stores and lots for residences and gardens. Empresarios who introduced one hundred families were entitled to five leagues and five labors for each one hundred, but they could not hold more than eleven leagues and eleven labors in their own right. If they earned more, they got them, but must sell them promptly to the best advantage.

The law of 1828 added to this liberally. Under it, the colonists were permitted to import all family supplies and implements free of duty and there was exemption from taxation for six years, justice was fairly administered and a system of education was promised .

If this plan has been faithfully carried out there would have been no trouble between the colonists and the government and if the law of 1824 had been enforced the colonists would have been satisfied. It was the breach of faith, tyranny and oppression that caused the trouble which followed it.

AMERICAN COLONY INCREASES.

The fame of Texas had gone abroad and Austin had supplied the leading papers with authoritative data, which excited interest and drew more immigrants.

Settlements sprang up in all directions and in addition to Austin's colonies, there was those of Hayden Edwards, which caused the Fedonian war and his expulsion. There

were also concessions to many others, who brought immigrants to Texas.

There were rough times in those days. The men as a rule wore buckskins and the women such things as they could make. All worked, and worked hard, man wife and children and many gladly suffered privation, cheered by the glorious prospect of ultimate prosperity.

In addition to colonists, many adventurous individual arrived to seek fortunes for convenience. While some of these were good citizens there were desperate men, exiles, fugitives from justice, bankrupts, speculators and defeated politicians. The worst class, however, as a rule, became industrious and all were self reliant and courageous.

MEXICAN OPPRESSION.

There was a natural antipathy between the Mexicans and the Americans and the success of the colonists, which should have been the pride of the government, excited a prejudicial jealousy.

In the varied revolutions in Mexico, the colonists had remained wisely neutral, taking no side with either party. Even this was made a grievance.

The trouble began when in 1830, the Mexican government passed an arbitrary law prohibiting the further immigration of Americans into Texas. Military posts, were established in the provinces, civil authorities became tyrannical and capricious and then the military law seemed supreme.

TEXAN COMPLAINTS.

In 1832, a convention of colonist was called at San Felipe de Austin and fifty delegates were present. In this convention Sam Houston made his first public debut in Texas and it resolved in an emphatic way. It urged that Texas should be an independent state in the federa-

tion of Mexico and framed a constitution that should have been fairly acceptable to the government. It pointed out that under the law of 1824 it had a right to such action, when the population justified it and it could now claim that right. The resolution also pointed out many evils, that existed and for which a remedy was demanded.

Austin took the resolutions to Mexico and found much prejudice existing against the colonists. Permission to create a Texas independent state was emphatically and abruptly denied, but Austin secured a remission of the law prohibiting American immigration and some postal facilities. Finding he could do no further good Austin went on his way. At Saltillo, he was arrested on the order of acting president Farias, taken back to the City of Mexico, held two years without trial or charge and then released.

SANTA ANNA'S TYRANNY.

The frequent revolutions of Mexico had advanced General Santa Anna de Lopez to the presidency, and, under the plan of Toluca, he was made absolute dictator. He dissolved the state union of Coahuila, making Texas simply a province of the former state and dissolved the legislature of Coahuila by force, leaving Texas practically without an administration except military rule. Then General Ugartechea was sent with a garrison to Bexar with the evident intent of overawing the colonists, who were murmuring against Mexican oppression. Prohibition of American immigration had been re-imposed, restrictions on commerce were put so that no colonist could retail in the country, there was difficulty in obtaining land titles and undue favor to Mexicans, who would claim titles that rightly belonged to colonists. There were also many other evils of which the colonists with good reason, complained.

TEXANS FORCIBLY RESIST.

Acting under instruction from headquarters, General Ugartechea caused the arrest of certain citizens, who were obnoxious to Santa Anna's party and Leonardo de Zavala, a Mexican friend of the colonists, and grandfather of Miss Adina de Zavalla, was specially sought as a formidable enemy to the centralists, of which Santa Anna was chief. The colonists, however, protected him and he escaped.

The next order was even more offensive and dangerous, for it meant the practical disarming of the colonists and leaving them defenceless against the hostile Indians and without the means of hunting game, on which many subsisted. The order was to seize the few cannon, the colonist had and to limit the use of fire arms to one gun to every five population.

GONZALES OPENS REVOLUTION.

Gonzales, which has been proudly termed the Lexington of Texas, had then a cannon, which had been given the citizen for its protection against Indians. General Ugartechea ordered Captain Castanado, with one hundred and fifty, men to proceed to Gonzalas, seize the cannon and bear it to San Antonio. This cannon was a potent factor in defence against the weekly incursions of Indians. The citizens resolved to maintain the gun, rallied under Capt. Albert Martin and a military organization was effected. The Texan force was increased from one hundred to one hundred and sixty eight and action was taken for defence. Castanado asked for a parley, proclaimed that he was a republican and wanted to know for what the Texans were fighting. He was told that the citizens would, at all hazards, retain the cannon, and gave him the option of surrendering or joining their ranks. Castanado would do

Neither and he retired from the conference. Then the Texans prepared for an attack and, somehow, a collision occurred between the two forces. There are two versions of the origin of the collision. One is that Castanado's demand for the surrender of the cannon was answered by its belching fire of denial. The other is that to intimidate the Gonzales garrison the Mexicans fired the first shot. Any-way a battle ensued, the Texans were victorious, Castanado defeated and, without the famous Gonzales cannon, he returned to San Antonio.

COLONISTS IN ACTION.

The news reached lower Caney and caused much excitement. Captain George Collingsworth, then gathered a few planters from Matagorda and Brazoria and proposed to capture La Bahia and they marched there. On the outskirts they met Ben Milam, who had escaped from a Mexican prison and was homeward bound. The attack was made on the night of October 8, and the garrison being surprised, surrendered. The Texans by this time stroke gained the fort, twenty-five prisoners, several pieces of artillery, three hundred stands of arms and cash valued at \$10,000. The fort was garrisoned and placed in command of of Capt. Phil Dimmit.

On November 3, Liptitlan on the Nueces river was taken by Captain Westover and the twenty Mexicans found there liberated on parole. After this Westover was attacked by seventy Mexicans and easily defeated them.

The action of the Texans could only be regarded by Mexico, as open rebellion, however, much it was justified, and it was naturally expected that the Mexican forces would be opposed to them. The Texans realized that the fight for liberty had to be made and prepared for the struggle.

AUSTIN HEADS THE ARMY.

Stephen Austin was elected commander-in-chief and proceeded to Gonzales. Here the Texan army was organized and eight hundred Texans flocked to aid him. Then came the news that General Cos had arrived in San Antonio, the garrison had been strengthened and the city put in a thorough state of defense. This was Austin's objective point for it was the stronghold of Texas and must be captured.

VICTORY AT MISSION CONCEPCION.

With his army, Austin crossed the Guadalupe, October 12th, 1835, and eight days latter camped at the Mission de la Espada, nine miles below the city. On October 27th. Austin sent Cols. Fannin and Bowie to reconnoitre to see if a camp could not be secured much nearer the city. The party camped on the place with three sides open and the Mexican spies discovered them. They were attacked by a large body of Mexican soldiers. The fight was short but terrific and in the end the Mexicans fled to San Antonio, leaving a cannon, muskets, ammunition and the dead and wounded behind. In this engagement---the battle of Mission Concepcion---the Texans only lost one man, Robert Andrews, and a few were wounded. The Mexicans had 60 killed and 40 wounded and were much demoralized.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZED.

A general consultation was held on November 3, 1835, and it was expected that a declaration of independence would be made but for the present only a protest was made which mainly protested against the usurpation of Santa Anna, recited Texan wrongs, maintained the right to secede and form an independent state and demanded the constitution of 1824 to which they would adhere. A provisional gov-

ernment was also elected consisting of Henry Smith, Governor; James W. Robinson, Lieutenant Governor and Sam Houston, Commander in chief. A commission was also appointed to go north to state the case of the colonists and to secure munitions of war, and Stephen Austin was named as one of the commissioners.

THE GRASS FIGHT.

The next event was the grass fight. General Cos sent out a detail to cut fodder for the horses. A running fight ensued and the Mexicans fled to the fortifications.

Austin retired to discharge his duties as commissioner and Burleson was elected to command. The cold weather came, and the Texans were ill prepared for a winter campaign and the colonists were anxious to get into San Antonio. The city, however, was well fortified, the strong houses formed a great defence, the Alamo was in fine order and held by artillery and Burleson and his officers thought a successful assault, with the present force, impossible. Then two splendid companies from New Orleans, in fine gray uniforms and well equipped, arrived. They were called the "New Orleans Grays," and were commanded by Major R. C. Morris and Captains Breeze and Cooke.

There were murmurings in camp and complaints of inactivity and something had to be done. Then it was proposed to make an attack on San Antonio on December 3, but then there was reason to believe that their plans had been betrayed and some were in favor of falling back on Goliad, as Sam Houston had ordered. The attack was deferred until a better opportunity. Next day, fortunately, Sam Maverick, Holmes and Smith, who had been imprisoned by De Cos and liberated, came into camp and gave valuable information as to the fortifications and conditions of San Antonio.

Colonel Milam suggested action and Burleson gave reluctant consent, fearing the safety of the men. Milam, gave a loud yell, called the colonists around him and then cried "Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?" In a few minutes there were 300 volunteers including the "New Orleans Grays." Then a plan of action was arranged. General Burleson should remain at headquarters. Colonel Niel with artillery should attack the Alamo to draw the Mexican forces there, and Milam should lead the attack, he taking one division and Colonel F. W. Johnson the other. It was one of the most daring schemes of warfare. That night Milam and his gallant band encamped at the Molino Blanco, within a mile of the city. In the morning Niel attacked the Alamo and drew the Mexicans to its defence. Then Milam and Johnson crossed the river and made a dual attack a little above the point where Houston Street now crosses Soledad Street. Mexican defenders were soon there and cannon shot and musket balls were scattered among the invaders.

COLONISTS CAPTURE THE CITY.

It was the most remarkable fight ever known. The Texans went to a house and captured it, broke out with crow bars, and made a dash for another house in a like way, and so advanced untill they got to the center of the city and the priest's house. Milam was shot and killed on the third day and Colonel F. W. Johnson succeeded to the command. Major Morris, of the "New Orleans Grays," took Johnson's place. General Cos found the Texans in the heart of the city and, no doubt overestimating the number, and failing to drive them out, returned to the Alamo. The black flag that floated over it gave place to the white flag and later General Cos agreed to surrender, evacuate the city and re-

turn to Mexico. Officers were permitted to retain side arms and personal property and were allowed to take a battery, one hundred stand of arms and ammunition for protection from Indians. All were placed under the parole d'honor not to fight against Texas, which Cos and others broke by fighting in the Mexican army at San Jacinto.

And so on December 14, 1835, the Mexicans evacuated San Antonio and left the city in complete control of the victorious Texans. It was a grand victory and almost unparralled in the annals of war.

INCAUTIOUS INACTIVITY.

There was an idea that the Mexicans were whipped and that the independence of Texas was gained. This idea was foolish. Those who entertained it did not know Santa Anna's pride or realize his hatred and his power.

In San Antonio the Texans rested upon their laurels and took no means to protect them. Many went home, others joined the Grant expedition to Matamores and there was a flitting to other places. The garrison at San Antonio by these causes became less than 150. General Burleson retired and Colonel Niel was appointed in his stead. On Neil's retirement it is generally supposed that Travis succeeded, but the assumption of command is signed by Travis and Bowie, each as Colonel of their respective regiments.

SAM HOUSTON IN COMMAND.

General Sam Houston was nominally commander-in-chief but the Texan army was not in a very promising condition. The soldiers, for the most part, were brave but unskilled, and were not readily amenable to discipline. There was also an unfortunate conflict of authority, the military council ordering and sanctioning matters without the advice and knowledge of the commander-in-chief which led to the Matamores fiasco and many dire evils.

Then came Santa Anna's siege of San Antonio, and the fall of the Alamo. We leave that chapter in Texas history to Mr. Stanford, merely remarking that Travis was ordered by General Houston to blow up the Alamo and to fall back on Goliad. If Travis had done this he would have strengthened the general forces and have been strengthened. Had he done so the massacre of the Alamo would have been avoided, but it is questionable whether the independence of Texas would have been gained so quickly and decisively.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

While Santa Anna was battering the walls of the Alamo delegates from all parts of the state were meeting in Washington, Texas, to promulgate a declaration of independence, frame a constitution and to nominate a government. It assembled on March 1, and next day the Texan declaration of independence was adopted.

TRAVIS' APPEAL.

On Sunday, March 6, Travis' last appeal was handed to the president of the convention, Richard Ellis, of Red River. Rumors of its purport got around and, without call, every member was in his seat when the president arose and read what he called "a document of the most important character ever received by any assembly of men." There was great excitement, much sympathy, and every desire to render all possible aid to the patriots of the Alamo, and Robert Potter arose and moved that this convention do now adjourn and march to the relief of the Alamo. Then Houston arose and opposed Potter's motion as madness and treason to the people. What could fifty delegates do in the face of the immense besieging force? A declaration of independence without an organization to support

it was null and void. Without it they could not command the respect and sympathy of mankind and would be regarded simply as outlaws. He eloquently begged the convention to resume their deliberations, perfecting the state organization, and pledged himself to set out for Gonzales at once, where he understood a force of militia had been quartered. He promised that while they sat in convention the Mexicans should never approach them, and that if human aid could save the brave men in the Alamo that aid should be extended to them.

HOUSTON TO THE RESCUE.

Houston was soon in the saddle and was accompanied by some companions and rode to a certain point with a specific object. Travis had promised to fire a gun each morning at sunrise that should announce that he still held the fort. These signals had been heard over the prairies for a hundred miles. The party camped there, and early next morning Houston, like the skilled Indian hunter he was, held his ear to the ground to catch even the gun's vibration. He listened long and anxiously but the gun failed to give the accustomed signal and he knew then that the Alamo had fallen. The Alamo had fired its last gun on the morning Travis' appeal reached Washington, and that while delegates were debating the measure of relief the heroes' bones were smoldering on a funereal pyre. The prognostication of the silence of the gun was soon confirmed.

On leaving Washington he sent orders to Col. Fannin to hasten to San Antonio and relieve the Alamo. Finding that this would now be useless, on March 11, he sent orders for Fannin "to evacuate Goliad, blow up the fort and fall back upon Victoria and the Guadalupe." Had Fannin obeyed that order the massacre of Goliad would certainly have been avoided.

Houston's idea was to concentrate his forces, and he would there have joined Fannin. It was the most important of all commands as it included the famous Alabama and Georgia regiments consisting of brave and experienced soldiers who were well equipped in every way. Fannin for some reason did not attempt to obey the order until he was surrounded by Mexicans and it was too late. He wrote to the commander in chief saying that he had held a council of war, had named the camp Fort Defiance, had determined to defend it and was willing to meet the consequence of disobeying orders. This is what Crane reports in his life of Houston, but friends deny or palliate the offence. It was not the first time that Fannin had disobeyed orders. He left the recruiting station on the Brazos to seek the colonelcy of the Alabama and Georgia regiments, at least so Houston says, and he was wont to tell the truth.

However, this may be, the Mexicans succeeded in dividing Fannin's forces and in forcing all to surrender as prisoners of war. Then, in defiance of all rules of warfare, the prisoners were taken out by guards and deliberately murdered, under orders. The doctors were reserved for use, and a few others escaped. This was a severe blow to Houston as it deprived him of the services of a grand command.

Goliad was really the beginning of the end. The fate of Texas lay with Houston and such force he had or could gain. Then began a game of "hide and seek" with Santa Anna as the seeker. Santa Anna knew that Houston and his forces were the only barrier to the subjugation of Texas, and with his overwhelming force he should defeat him and had every prospect of doing so.

HOUSTON'S STRATEGY.

Houston had his plans laid but he told none. Then came his policy of retreat and he gained strength as he retreated. In this he fooled Santa Anna who took his retreat as a sign of weakness and inability to give battle, and he incautiously followed where Houston led, being desirous of defeating Houston's force and crushing what he called the rebellion. On the forces went until they met on San Jacinto's field, Houston had the enemy just where he wanted him, with a much divided force, on April 20, 1836. The enemy had passed over Vince's bridge, were face to face with the Texans and in the rear was a sea of water. The only event on that day was the reconnoitre of Col. Sherman, a daring adventure, which ended well. The day ended without an attack on either side. The next morning Santa Anna was re-inforced by the arrival of General Cos, and about five hundred men. It is estimated that the Mexican force was about 1500 men, while the Texan army was only 783. men. The Mexicans were well equipped with rations and ammunitions while the Texans were in a reverse condition.

The first move of the Texans was to cut down Vince's bridge to prevent retreat of the Mexicans and the possible retreat of their troops.

VICTORY AT SAN JACINTO.

Santa Anna made no show of attack but contented himself with organizing his forces and in making defences for his position. He waited knowing that an attacked force has the best position. He had no fear, he had by far the largest force, and the best equipped, and was confident of the favorable issue.

On the other hand, in the Texan camp were desperate men who were fighting for liberty and their homes. They

knew that if Santa Anna conquered their hopes and all, even life, perished in his victory. And in the ranks were brave patriots, eager to avenge the death of compatriots in the Alamo and at Goliad, and sought in all ways Santa Anna's defeat.

Both sides remained on the defensive until 3:00 p.m. next day—the glorious 21st day of April, 1836—and the Mexicans came to the conclusion that there would be no engagement that day, but at that very hour the order to charge was given and the Texans, to the air of "Come to the Bower," and cries of "Remember the Alamo," "Remember Goliad!" rushed on their Mexican enemies with terrific force. The conflict was sharp and decisive and the Texans were triumphant. The Texan loss was remarkably small, six killed and twenty-three wounded, six mortally. On the enemy's side there were 630 killed, one general, two colonels, four lieutenant colonels, five captains, twelve lieutenants. There were 200 wounded and 730 prisoners. On the day after General Santa Anna, in disguise, was taken prisoner and General Cos, who broke his parole d'honor, given when Milam's force captured the City of San Antonio, was also captured. There were no doubt, many drowned, of whom little accounting was made. Few escaped without injury and only a small remnant of Santa Anna's army was left. Had the Mexican tyrant escaped he would have been powerless until he received re-inforcements from Mexico. The Texans also captured 600 muskets, 300 sabers, 200 pistols, much ammunition and army baggage and \$12,000 in specie, and despite the forced marches, exposure to bad weather and privation, the hardy Texans were in fine condition.

HOUSTON'S GENEROSITY.

How different was the treatment of the Mexicans by the

Texans to what it would have been if the positions had been reversed. There is no doubt that the scenes of the Alamo and Goliad would have been repeated as, indeed, Santa Anna had threatened. The patriots would have been massacred, their bodies burned on a funereal pyre and their homes subject to pillage and rapine.

The Texans, however, were brave men, and like brave men they were humane to their prisoners. There was naturally great indignation against Santa Anna because he had been the main cause of Texan troubles and for his infamous actions against the Texans at the Alamo and Goliad, and there were many that clamored for his death in expiation of those terrible crimes but Houston, though censured for it, insisted on treating Santa Anna like a prisoner of war and with the honor, under such circumstances, that was due to his rank, and better council prevailed, even though a foolish and unwarranted attempt was made to recapture Santa Anna after his release.

Mainly by Houston's advice and insistence Santa Anna's life was spared and a treaty was made recognizing the independence of Texas. Santa Anna was then permitted to return to his native land. This act was not only humane and wise, for there were many Texan prisoners in Mexico and the execution of Santa Anna might have caused a terrible reprisal.

TEXAN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC.

Then came the republic of Texas with Sam Houston as its president, and San Antonio as its leading city, though Washington was its capitol. Then also came peace, prosperity and rapid progress.

MEXICO'S VAIN ATTEMPTS.

Two attempts were made afterwards by Mexico to regain Texas, and San Antonio was, of course, the objec-

tive point in each case. The first was that of General Vasquez who came to San Antonio March 5, 1842 and demanded its surrender, promising protection to citizens in civil rights. He stayed two days, changed the government and returned to Mexico. **1560606**

The next was that of General Woll who captured the city on September 10, 1842. The Texans retired to the Salado and rallied there. Woll attacked them and was defeated, and next day retreated to the Rio Grande.

This was the last trouble that Texas had with Mexico, excepting the Mexican war which it is generally admitted was a blunder and could have been avoided. It had, however, the advantage of making definite peace between the two great republics—the United States and Mexico.

PAST AND FUTURE OF TEXAS.

Texas surrendered her position as an independent republic to be one of the United States, but during the civil war seceded and was an ardent supporter of the confederacy and her sons figured prominently in the fray. On Lee's surrender Texas reluctantly sheathed her sword, and later came into the Union again as one of the loyal states, and proved her loyalty during the Spanish-American war.

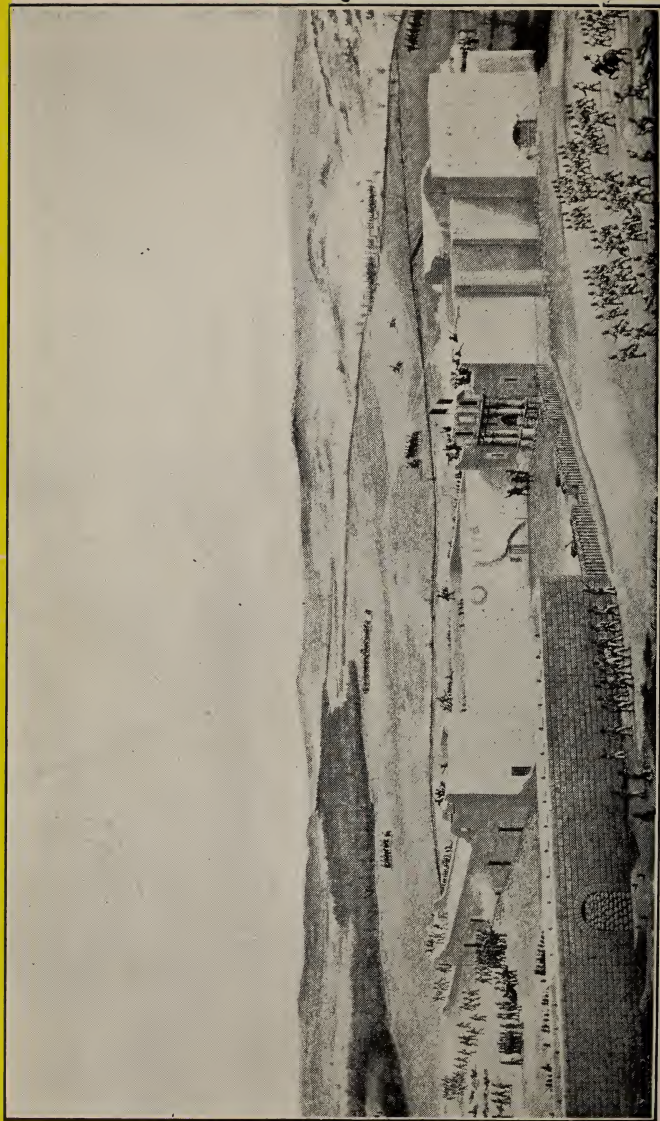
Today Texas is one of the largest states in the union, and is the richest, although millions of acres remain unsettled and not a tithe of her natural wealth has been exploited. The climate is temperate and salubrious, and the gulf breeze adds to its comfort. The greater part is free from plagues and cyclones, and even where they occur they are of a mild and comparatively harmless character. The land is most fertile, and the yield is phenomenal. Water, where it does not exist naturally in large quantities is readily secured by artesian wells. Cotton and corn is

most extensively produced, and other cereals are grown well. Fruits and truck thrive in a luxurious and profitable way. Cattle ranches are conducted on a large scale. Some of the largest oil wells can be found here. There is an abundance of lumber and building material and exceeding riches in mineral wealth. It is no figure of speech to say that Texas in her wealth, if properly developed, could support her own population and the whole of the United States with the necessities of life.

It is the empire state now in its size and the course of time must naturally be the empire state in all other ways,

HENRY RYDER-TAYLOR





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"THE FALL OF THE ALAMO."

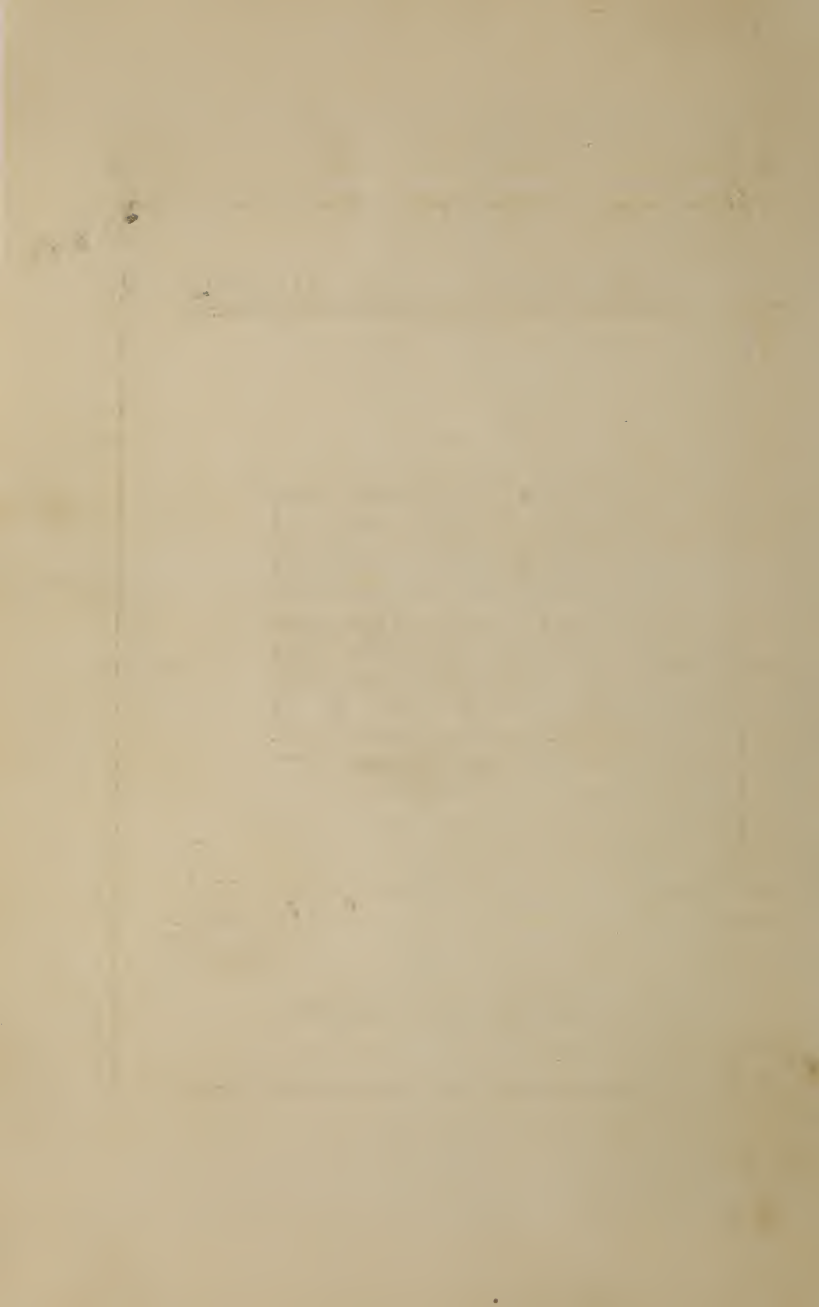
THE STORY of the ALAMO

Its seige by President Santa Anna, the gallant defence of Texans in face of overpowering numbers, how they were massacred in defence of the fortress, and how their bodies were burned to ashes by the ruthless tyrant. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀



BY

CHAS. H. STANFORD



Story Of The Alamo.

The story of the Alamo has been often told, and so well written, that I have hesitated to accept the invitation of my friends to write this chapter for this book, but can I, who venerate the patriots that died in order that we might be free, refuse to do them all honor that lies within me or fail to hold up their honorable titles as a just tribute to their virtues and as an example for those of the present generation and those that shall follow?

* * *

The days of Chivalry in foreign lands interest us and excite us, but most of these are of a fanciful character and chimerical in idea. The Texan hero is of another character, of original type and of essential manhood. Primarily he came here to seek a livelihood for himself and family. Under guarantees of a government he settled here, worked hard to gain a home and competence with no thought of the scenes that followed, but when tyranny and oppression came, when pledges were broken and injustice prevailed, he rose in all the might of his manhood and demanded as a right the justice that was his due, and, failing to secure it, in a peaceable way, he fought for it and won it. There may not have been the glare and tinsel of foreign knighthood, no mailed armor, plumes and heraldic trappings, but there was the evidence of a glorious manhood that demanded right and had the courage to enforce it. These were simply tillers of the soil, the hewers of the wood and

the drawers of the water. An old slouch hat, buckskin, a trusty musket and a bowie knife was Texan armor and they were so low in the social scale, that they could hardly dare to aspire to be an esquire to the chivalrious knight of old, on the European plan, but the simple Texan settler far exceeded in bravery and manhood the showy knight of the medeval ages.

* * *

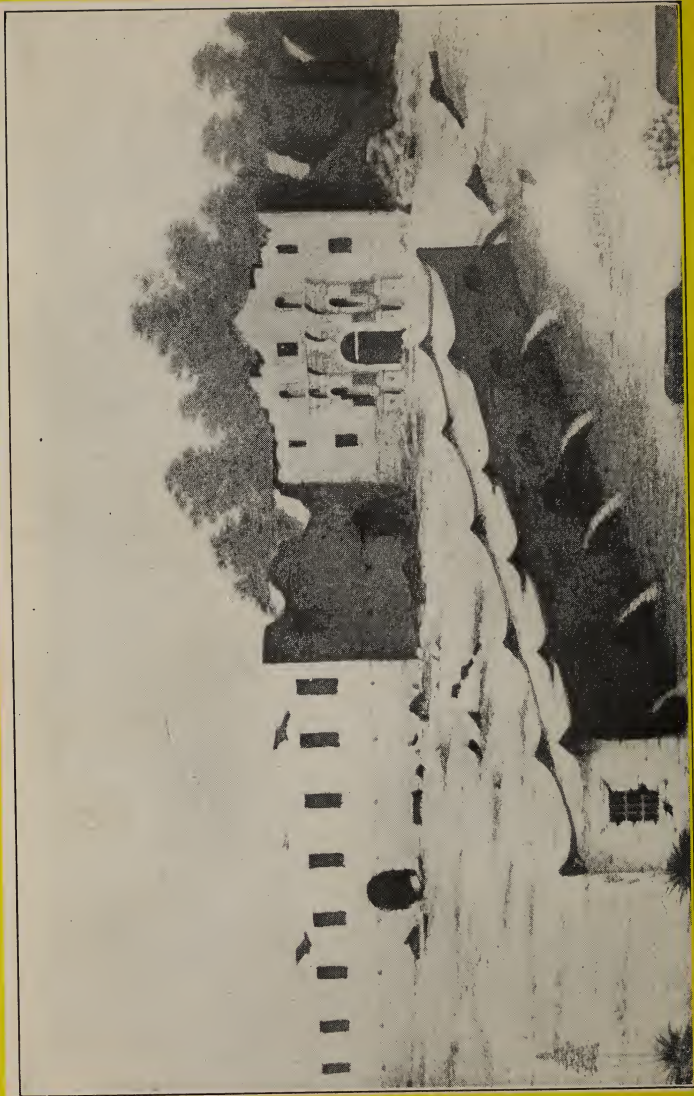
The ladies in days of old gave their knights gages—a token of favor—that were of varied kinds from the lady's glove to a banneret and possibly many of the pioneers bore such gages. Men show their approval in other ways. All I can do now is to show my appreciation of their good work by the recital of their noble deeds and by laying a garland upon the dear old Alamo that is a monument to their heroism and must remain so, as long as one stone remains and Texan manhood shall exist.

* * *

In respect for our dead heroes, I am writing. I have only one desire, that is to do them the honor and justice that they deserve, although the space at my disposal is is very limited. Perhaps at a future date, I may handle this subject in a more liberal way.

* * *

It is unfortunate that the information respecting this important event is so meagre and in many cases unreliable and contradictory. All the male defenders died except Rose, who deserted his comrades in the hour of peril, and whose account is too grandiloquent and specious as to command confidence. No one can imagine that Travis in the presence of friends would deliver a set



Ciceronian address—he was a man of deeds, not words, as all heroes are, and only rose to eloquence in his impressive appeals for outside aid, prompted by the necessity of the occasion. Then that story of the drawing of the line is too theatrical and in the imitation of a scene from Pizarro, to be accepted. The only survivors were women and children. They would naturally be protected and isolated as much as possible and would not have seen all and in their anxiety and confusion may be excused if they failed to notice much that occurred. The main account we have is based on Mexican sources and hearsay evidence for no record was found made by the defenders of the Alamo. If any was made it perished with them.

* * *

But despite this ambiguity, the glorious fact remains that for twelve days the noble garrison of the Alamo held the fort against the mighty host of Santa Anna, refusing to capitulate and fought against an overwhelming force, until their wounds or death rendered them incapable of resistance. What record can be greater or more honorable?

* * *

The defence of the Alamo is an heroic picture, realistic in fact and at the same time ideal and romantic. The picture is unparralled in history and there is no wonder that Texans, are proud of it and venerate the heroes, who made such a grand defence and by it, laid the foundation of freedom for this glorious Lone Star State—the empire state of our great Republic.

* * *

In this article I shall only use such facts as seem to me to be worthy of credence and that have a reasonable amount of confirmation. I have consulted the best authori-

ties in a desire to give the reader, in a brief way, the best information that can be secured. But it must be remembered that this is mainly a compilation and must be accepted in that way.

* * *

With this introduction let me relate the

STORY OF THE ALAMO

as I understand it. In order, however, that it may be understood, I must relate the condition of affairs in Texas at the time of the memorable siege of the Alamo.

The Texans were oppressed by tyranny and injustice and when Santa Anna became dictator of Mexico, of which Texas was then a province, their condition became worse. The legislature of Coahuila was forcibly dissolved and petitions for redress were contemptuously ignored. The last straw came when Santa Anna sought to deprive the Texans of arms, the only means they had of defence from Indians and to obtain game for food. General Ugartechea, on Santa Anna's instructions, sent to Gonzales to secure a cannon, held there and given citizens for protection from Indians, that were troublesome and dangerous. The citizens rallied, refused to deliver the cannon, and the Mexicans sought forcibly to take it. Then followed the first encounter between Texan and Mexicans and in the end the latter were defeated and retired to San Antonio. A little later a band of Texans captured the fortress of La Bahia (Goliad).

This open rebellion to Mexican authority naturally meant war or the yielding to a far worse condition. The Texans insisted on the rights granted them under the Mexican National Laws of 1824, which Santa Anna had violated and seeing no other means of gaining it, organized a

little army to enforce their demands and Stephen F. Austin was chosen as commander. The Texans encamped around the missions on the environs of San Antonio, which was the fortress of Texas. This was at the end of the year 1835. Then followed the battle of Mission Conception and the grass fight in which Texans were victorious and suffered little loss.

To strike an effective blow at Mexico and to provide quarters for Texans at this inclement season, was most desirable. The only question was how the Texans would carry the fortress against an overwhelming force. Austin retired from command, being one of the commissioners detailed by the provisional government to collect funds in the northern and eastern states and General Burleson succeeded to the command.

There was a delay in the attack on San Antonio and much grumbling by the adventurous spirits. Then came Ben Milam, who securing Burleson consent, raised the memorable cry of "Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?" In a few minutes three hundred men had pledged themselves to follow Milam and among them were the New Orleans Grays, who had recently re-inforced the Texans. That night Milam's men were quartered secretly at the Molino Blanco, on the northern outskirts of San Antonio, and next morning under command of Milam and Frank Johnson, they attacked the northern end of of San Antonio. It was a most courageous and desperate act and the Mexicans met the Texans with cannon, shrapnell and fusilades of muskets and then followed a most unique war-fare. The Texans took the city house by house, capturing one and then rushing to the other and taking it and so went on till they got to the heart of the city. On the fourth day, Milam fell shot through the head. On the third

day Johnson took the command and Morris of the New Orleans Greys took Johnson's place. The Mexican General, Cos, finding he could not dislodge the Texans and, no doubt over-estimating their number, raised a flag of truce and capitulated and soon after he and his men evacuated the city on parole, leaving the Texans in triumphant and peaceful possession of it on Dec. 14, 1835.

It may be said that having conquered San Antonio the Texan colonists were in possession of the whole state and there seemed to be an idea that Mexico would permit the Texans to create an independent state, as provided for in the laws of 1824, and, in that case, there is little doubt that they would have agreed to become the one of the federated states of Mexico. Burleson retired from command and it was invested in Travis and Bowie jointly as representing the two arms of military service, though Travis seemed really to be commanding officer, probably owing to Bowie's ill health.

The Texans were at peace and good government and order prevailed and the Mexicans living there had friendship and justice.

Lulled by a false sense of security the defenders began to separate. Some naturally went to their homes, others joined that will o' the whisp scheme, the invasion of Mexico and the active garrison of San Antonio was reduced to about one hundred and fifty men.

In the mean time the calm of San Antonio was threatened by a storm brewing in the Mexican capital. Cos had returned there and the story of his ignominious defeat by a handful of Texans had been told. Santa Anna was enraged over the loss of Texas, the disgrace to Mexican arms and his anger was increased when his political enemies used the fact against his military prowess of which he was espe-

cially proud. He regarded himself as "the Napoleon of Mexico," and nothing delighted him more than the title given him by his sycophants "The Napoleon of the West."

Santa Anna was impulsive and erratic, but he was essentially bold and aggressive and spared no means to attain his desired end. He decided on the reconquest of Texas and to punish the Texans whom he naturally called rebels and, for this purpose, organized an army of picked men and equipped it in the best manner known in the military circles of that day. And what was more, he decided to lead the army in person to its anticipated victories and thus add to his laurels.

With all possible speed Santa Anna set out from Mexico with a large army, most of whom had served under him in his Mexican victories and were experts in warfare.

On February 22, the anniversary of Washington's birthday—the van guard of Santa Anna's army, much to the dismay of the Texans, arrived at the Alazan. The significance of this was ominous. It meant that the Mexican forces would attack San Antonio, but the importance and extent of its commission was not understood.

Of course the Texans were on the *qui vive* and began to organize for defence and when all was told there were were but one hundred and forty-five fighting men.

Houston, as commander-in-chief, had anticipated this attack and had ordered that in such event Travis should blow up the Alamo and fall back on Goliad, where he would be strengthened by forces, there and a juncture could be made with the varied forces. These instructions were disregarded. The Alamo was the natural fortress of the city and to that place Travis and his men retired. He thought, probably, of Milam's success and he had reasonable hope of re-inforcements from several points,

wherein Texan troops were located and expected to be ready for service. Then the Texans began to arrange the Alamo for defense.

On the next day, Santa Anna and his army arrived, his blood red banner was placed on San Fernando Cathedral meaning no quarter or mercy, and a formal demand was made for the surrender of the city. The only answer the Texans made was a cannon shot aimed at the banner but it did not reach it. Foraging parties of Texans, secured eighty bushels of corn and thirty beeves and other provender.

By the second day the Mexicans had mounted a cannon on the cathedral roof and bombarded the Alamo without the least effect. The reader must remember that the cathedral was in an oblique line to the Alamo and the country, then between those points, except for a few small houses (jacals), was open and rendered the Alamo liable for a cannonade from the cathedral. On the same day Travis sent a courier with his eloquent appeal for aid to Goliad and to Washington, Texas, then the seat of the provisional government, in which was included the heroic and memorable words "I shall never surrender or retreat".

On the third day Santa Anna drew nearer the Alamo, moving his headquarters across the river and made a personal reconnoitre. The Texans opened their batteries on the party killing two, and wounding six others. At night they sallied forth and burned several wooden jacals that afforded a hiding place for the invaders.

The only feature of the fourth day was an attempt on part of the Mexicans to divert the ditches which supplied the Alamo with water. This was frustrated and at night the Texans fired more wooden jacals on the north side of the Alamo.

The fifth day was only marked by the Mexican bombardment of the Alamo, which had no effect. The Texans, being short of ammunition, wisely refrained from returning the fire.

Col. John N. Seguin and a corporal were sent out on the sixth day to Goliad to urge the immediate necessity for reinforcements and got safely away.

The Mexicans on the seventh day continued the bombardment. Shells fell around, but they did no material damage.

The eighth day was more cheering for the Texans for the first re-inforcement thirty-two men from good old Gonzales arrived and were welcomed with loud huzzas. On the same day a Texan shot hit the headquarters wherein Santa Anna was located. It seemed to be a good omen and so was accepted.

The Mexican bombardment continued heavily on the ninth day, but no harm was done to the Texans.

The tenth day came and Col. Bonham, who had been sent to Goliad for re-inforcements, managed to evade the Mexican lines and entered the Alamo. He brought the sad news that no aid could be expected from that quarter, though the reason has never been explained. Fannin was there and had the Alabama and Georgia regiments under his command. The bombardment went on but was, as usual, ineffective. Then Travis made his last appeal for assistance addressing it to the provisional government that was then in session at Washington, Texas. It was dated March 3, 1836. In that dispatch Travis reports the condition of the Alamo and rejoices that though over two hundred shells have fallen within the walls none have been injured and that there has been no loss of life from any cause, though they had killed several of the enemy. He

tells of the appeals made to Goliad for assistance and that none had arrived and that he looks to the colonies alone for aid. And he adds:

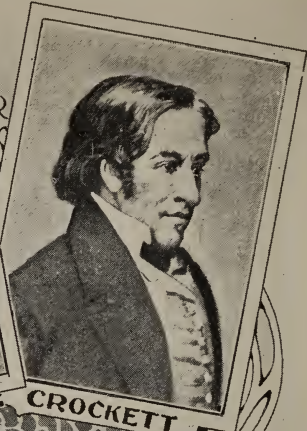
“I hope your honorable body will hasten on re-inforcements, ammunition and provisions to aid us as soon as possible. We have provisions for twenty days for the men we have; our supply of ammunition is limited. At least five hundred pounds of powder and two hundred rounds of six, nine, twelve and eighteen pound balls, ten kegs of rifle powder and a supply of lead should be sent to this place without delay, under sufficient guard. If these things are promptly sent and large reinforcements sent to the frontier, this neighborhood will be the great and decisive battle ground. The power of Santa Anna is to be met here by the colonies; we had better meet it here than to suffer a war of desolation to rage in our settlements. A blood red banner waves from the church of Bexar (San Fernando Cathedral) and in camp above us in token that the war is one of vengeance against rebels—they have declared us such and demanded that we surrender at discretion or this garrison shall be put to the sword. Their threats have no influence on me or my men, but to make all fight with desperation and with that high souled courage, which characterizes the patriot, who is willing to die in defence of his country’s liberty and his own honor.”

“The citizens of this municipality are all our enemies, except those who joined us heretofore. We have but three Mexicans in the fort. Those who have not joined us in this extremity, should be declared public enemies and their property should aid in defraying the expenses of the war.”

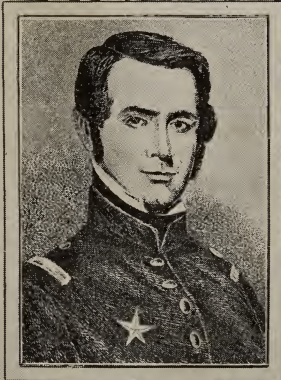
“The bearer of this will give your honorable body a statement more in detail should he escape through the enemy’s lines. God and Texas! Victory or Death!”



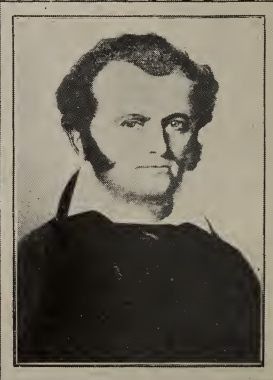
TRAVIS



CROCKETT



MILAM



BOWIE

FOUR TEXAN HEROES.

This message was sent by J. W. Smith, who was the father of Mrs. W. G. Tobin, the mother of Sheriff Tobin; Ex-Fire Chief Tobin and others of that family. Smith left the Alamo at midnight and as he left Travis said "Every morning at daybreak, I will fire a cannon as a sign that we still hold the fort, but when the cannon is heard no more its silence will tell that the Alamo has fallen." Smith crawled on his hands and knees till he got beyond the Mexican lines and then posted with all possible haste to Washington, but it transpired afterwards that when the message was delivered the Alamo had fallen.

The eleventh day came. The bombardment continued and in a more vigorous way, but the Texans reserved their fire. A story is told that Travis found no signs of aid being rendered and was despondent. It is further said that he offered to surrender as prisoners of war. Santa Anna's reply was "you must surrender at discretion, without any guarantee of life, which traitors do not deserve."

Santa Anna excused this under the plea that it was the will of the Mexican Congress, but as he was dictator to its acts the excuse is invalid. The fact was he hated the American colonists, they were a barrier to his tyranny and he had decided upon a policy of extermination. Upon this reply Travis saw that in any case, death awaited him and his brave companions. He then decided to continue the struggle even to death. There was more honor in death, fighting the foe than in an ignominious surrender. The story of Travis's proposed surrender is incredible as one of Santa Anna's letter says: "Through the obstinacy of Travis and his men, not one of them would surrender." Then we have that fairy tale, that Rose tells, how Travis explained the critical condition, how the leader drew a line with his sword in the old church and said: "Those who

will stand by me will now cross the line, those who do not care to do so have free permission to depart and escape, if they can. Not a man faltered except Rose. Even Bowie, who was seriously ill, demanded that his cot be taken across the line. Rose claimed that he refused to do so, was permitted to leave and so made his escape. Who can credit the story of such an arrant coward, as he is by his own admission, irrespective of other contradictory features.

Santa Anna was tired and anxious. He had a good idea of the straits of the Alamo defenders and feared that reinforcements would arrive and prevent the capture of San Antonio. That afternoon he called a council of war and proposed taking the Alamo by storm on the following day. There was considerable opposition, many officers regarding the project in a most opposite way, believing that the attack would fail. The dictator carried his point and the attack was ordered for the next day and formal, official orders were given to that effect.

Santa Anna laid his plans with consummate care and with the diabolical idea of the terrible vengeance he inflicted upon the patriots. The attack was to be made by four divisions, each carrying scaling ladders, crow-bars and axes. Those carrying these to bear muskets hung from their shoulders. No overcoat or blanket was to be taken to impair the soldiers movements and the use of shoes or sandals was forbidden so that they could noiselessly approach the Alamo. Care was to be taken in the fire arms and especial attention was to be paid to the condition of the bayonets.

Every grenadier was to be supplied with six packages of cartridges and two spare flints. The men were to turn in for rest at dark and to be ready for call at mid-

night. A reserve force was arranged for the camp of recruits and of experts, who were detailed to kill any of the Texan garrison that might escape the general butchery.

There was no special reason to expect the attack and the brave Texans went through the usual routine. All possible precautions were taken for safety. The doors and windows were barred with many sandbags and marksmen. As usual sentries were posted at various points and other tired workers slept.

It was about four o'clock on Sunday the 6th day of March 1836, four divisions of Santa Anna's army moved on to the Alamo with a silent and stealthy tread and, arriving at the convent, an attack was made and the bugles sounded the terrible *dequelo*—the call indicating death and no quarter. There was general activity by the gallant defenders and every available man rushed to the position he was assigned to defend.

According to Sergeant Beceras' account, General Castillion was the first to attack and leader in it. He planted scaling ladders and commenced an ascent and others made a human ladder to scale the outer defences. The Texans opened a heavy fire and followed with a fusilade of muskets and soon the ground was strewn with dead and dying Mexicans. The first attack was repulsed with great slaughter and the second met with a like fate. Then the spirit of the attackers flagged and action was slow. Santa Anna, by persuasion and force, induced a third attack and then Castillion's men gained the upper part of the convent walls. Thus encouraged the Mexicans fought with vigor and had the strength of overwhelming numbers. Sometime after the doors of the

Alamo were forced open, and a breach was made in the southern walls.

Then if there was ever a pandemonium on earth, it was there. After a prolonged fusilade which rent the air, huzzas of the fighters and shrieks of the wounding and dying, the contestants came to a hand to hand fight. The Texans fought like demons. They discharged their muskets as long as the ammunition lasted and, being good marksmen, did so with telling effect. When the ammunition gave out the gun was used as a club and with great vigor and when broken or too close for such action with the gun, the trusty bowie knife was used until the defenders were silenced by death.

For minor details we have to go outside of that noble garrison for all the males were killed. Only the females were spared and these, probably, were huddled for safety, in some place, where they could see little, what was going on during the terrible battle. There are various conflicting accounts of the death of the noble leaders, but after consideration of all. I prefer that of Francisco, (Panchito) Antonio Ruiz, son of Don Francisco Ruiz, a member of the Texas Convention, who declared the Independence of Texas and signed it. He was then Alcalde (mayor) of San Antonio. He says, among other things of lesser import,

“On the 6th of March (1836) at 3 a. m., General Santa Anna at the head of 4000 men advanced against the Alamo. The infantry artillery and cavalry had formed about 1000 varas from the walls of the said fortress. The Mexican army charged and were twice repulsed by the deadly fire of Travis' artillery which resembled a constant thunder. At the third charge the Toluca battalion commenced to

scale the walls and suffered severely. Out of 830 men only 130 were left alive."

"When the Mexican army entered the walls, I with the political chief (Gefe politico) Don Ramon Musquiz and other members of the corporation, accompanied by the curate, Don Refugio de la Garza, who by Santa Anna's orders, had assembled during the night at a temporary fortification on Protero Street, with the object of attending the wounded etc. As soon as the storming commenced we crossed the bridge on Commerce street, with this object in view and about 100 yards from the same a party of Mexican dragoons fired upon us and compelled us to fall back on the river and the place we occupied before. Half an hour had elapsed when Santa Anna sent one of his aide de camps with an order for us to come before him. He directed me to call on some of the neighbors to come with carts to carry the (Mexican) dead to the cemetery and to accompany him as he was desirous to have Col. Travis, Bowie and Crockett shown to him."

"On the north battery of the fortress convent, lay the lifeless body of Col. Travis on the gun carriage shot only through the forehead. Towards the west, and in a small fort opposite the city, we found the body of Col. Crockett. Col. Bowie was found dead in his bed in one of the rooms on the south side."

"Santa Anna, after all the Mexican bodies had been taken out, ordered wood to be brought to burn the bodies of the Texans. He sent a company of dragoons with me to bring wood and dry branches from the neighboring forests. About three o'clock in the afternoon of March 6, we laid the wood and dry branches upon which a pile of dead bodies were placed, more wood was piled on them and another pile of bodies was brought and in this man-

ner they were all arranged in layers. Kindling wood was distributed through the pile and about 5 o'clock in the evening it was lighted."

"The dead Mexicans of Santa Anna were taken to the grave yard, but not having sufficient room for them, I ordered some to be thrown in the river, which was done on the same day."

"Santa Anna's loss was estimated at 1600 men. They were the flower of his army."

"The gallantry of the few Texans, who defended the Alamo was really wondered at by the Mexican army. Even the generals were astonished at their vigorous resistance and how dearly victory was bought."

"The generals, who under Santa Anna participated in the storming of the Alamo were Juan Amador, Castrillion, Ramirez, Sesma and Andrade."

"The men (Texans) burnt were one hundred and eighty-two. I was an eye witness for as Alcalde of San Antonio, I, was with some of the neighbors, collecting the dead bodies and placing them on the funereal pyre.

(Signed.) FRANCIS ANTONIO RUIZ.

This document, which seems to have been overlooked by some Texas historians, was translated by J. A. Quintero, certified by him and was published in the Texas Almanac for 1860. It is valuable for the information that it gives which may be taken as official and authoritative. We have here the fact that Travis died on his cannon and in the discharge of his duty, that Crockett died in the same way and sold life dearly. The death of the invalided, Bowie confirms Senora Candalara's account of his death. She says that she was holding him up and giving him a drink of water when the Mexicans broke into his room and bayoneted him to death wounding her

on the chin and the scar of the wound remained till her death.

It confirms the fact that the whole of the dead defenders of the Alamo were burnt to ashes in one grand funereal pyre, but it does not mention the exact locality. Some think that it was on what we know as Alamo Plaza and others, that it was in front of what we know as St. Joseph's Church.

In my idea both accounts are incorrect. It cannot be conceived that the bloody and mutilated bodies would be unnecessarily handled by carrying them any distance; and it will be noticed that Ruiz, in his report, especially mentions the taking out of the bodies of the Mexican soldiers. He never mentions more than the piling of the bodies of Texans and the burning of them. It seems most probable that the bodies were burned in courts or patio of the convent. And herein lies a pretty conceit. The ashes of the dead remained there a long time, any-way, owing to the troublesome days of Texas, and the battered down walls allowed the free play of the southern zephyrs and ruder Boreas. The ashes of our honored dead may have been scattered around the Alamo and remain on its walls and mixed with the soil. In this way Texas has done well in preserving the entire Alamo Fortress, as originally laid out, for it thus becomes not only a nominal but the actual mausoleum of the Alamo heroes and all the more worthy of veneration.

Of the fate of Bonham nothing is said beyond that he died fighting for Texas, but we catch just a glimpse of Evans who was in charge of the ordinance at the Alamo. We are told, and it is not improbable, that as a last resort Evans was detailed to blow up the powder magazine

of the Alamo and so engulf the enemy in a common ruin and decimate Santa Anna's force. It is further said that Evans was in the act of doing so when he was shot down by Mexican soldiers and the remnant of the Alamo thus preserved.

The great and brave are always liberal to a fallen foe but Santa Anna was really neither one nor the other. Not only did he mete out his terrible vengeance on the defenders of the Alamo and burn their bodies, but he, in his official capacity, slandered the memory of the the illustrious dead, by writing the following in his official report to the secretary of the Mexican Navy, dated March 6th, 1836.

“They (Mexicans) met with a stubborn resistance. The combat lasted for more than an hour and a half and the reserves had to be brought into action. The scene offered by this engagement was extraordinary. The men fought individually, vieing with each other in heroism.

After paying this deserved compliment to the Texan bravery, he adds the following, which he must have known to be wholly false:

“More than 600 foreigners (meaning Texans) were buried in the ditches and entrenchments and a great many who had escaped the bayonets of the infantry, fell in the vicinity, under the sabres of the cavalry.

“We lost about seventy men killed and three hundred wounded, among who were twenty-five officers.”

It will be observed that Santa Anna mentioned nothing of the burning of Texan bodies.

He was probably ashamed of his cowardly cruelty to the honored Texan dead. It was certainly not a deed to be trumpeted to his credit.

Alcade Ruiz says that one hundred and eighty-two

bodies of Texans were burned in his presence and that Santa Anna was then present. Thus the whole of defenders of the Alamo are accounted for as killed and burned. No one ever heard of any Texan of the Alamo, after the assault. The only parties who escaped were women and children and a Mexican servant. If Santa Anna had that 600 "buried in ditches and trenches they were his own men and that would show he falsified, when he represented his loss of killed and wounded. Alcade Ruiz, who was on the ground and was personally and officially acquainted with all the incidents of the time says "Santa Anna's loss was 1600." This was no doubt a conservative number for other accounts, say 2000 which, having regard to the nature of the assault and bravery of the defenders, was a fair estimate. Santa Anna would have gained more in history, by telling the truth, but such a report would not then have been so acceptable in the Mexican capital.

It has been said that the charred remains of the gallant defenders of the Alamo were collected by Juan N. Seguin a faithful Mexican friend, of the Texans, placed in some vessel and secretly buried in the graveyard that then aside the old parish church, some say in front of the altar of the church, but if so all trace of the vessels has been lost. The cemetery has been twice removed, once to a site near the present market house and auditorium and later to its present site on the Alazan creek. And from all accounts no great care was taken in the removal of bodies except in special cases, in which descendants were personally interested.

It has been said that "Thermopolae had its messenger of the defeat, but the Alamo had none." There is no question that the gallant garrison fell in its grand defence

but Mrs. Dickenson was the first to give an authoritative account of the fall of the Alamo and its terrible sequence. She was the wife of Lieut. Dickenson, who on the night previous to the fall of the Alamo, strapped one of his children to his body and in the hope of saving both lives jumped from the far east high window of the Alamo to the ditch below. A fusilade of the bullets announced his detection by Mexican spies or sentinels. Neither were seen or heard of afterwards and there is little doubt, but what both then perished. In addition to Mrs. Dickenson and her surviving child, afterwards known as "the child of the Alamo," there were in the Alamo at the time of its fall Mrs. Alsbury, one child and sister, Mrs. Concepcion Losoya, her daughter and two young sons and Mrs. Vitona de Saline and three girls. Madame Candalaria claims to have been there as the nurse to Bowie and that he was killed while she was nursing him and accidentally wounded at the time in proof of which she exhibited a scar, though some doubted her story for her knowledge of events were very meagre. An affidavit now in file in the Bexar County archives, dated April 15th, 1837, shows that she then claimed land to which by the laws of the Texas republic, she was entitled to, but never secured and a few years ago the state granted the venerable old lady a pension she enjoyed until her death. Enrique Esparza, a Mexican claims to have been there as a boy and was spared. About twenty years ago, an old man named Cannon, came to the city and claimed to have been in the Alamo, when a boy and was present at its fall. He said that his home was on what is now known as Losoya street and in the lot occupied by Fritz Piper, where, he said, several relatives were buried. He told some extraordinary stories which were contradictory and not credited. He left soon and his stories appeared in several northern and eastern papers where he

visited in his wanderings, but he has not been heard of for years.

The terrible scenes of the Alamo were destined to be of great advantage to Texas. Shakespeare has said. "There is a divinity that shapes our ends rough, hew them as we will." We know that often "Out of evil cometh good" and that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." The blood of the Alamo patriots may truly be said to have been the seed of Texan liberty. And it is now a mighty fine tree!

Santa Anna, flushed with his victory at the Alamo, went in search of Sam Houston, the honored patriot, who was supreme command of the Texan forces and expected meet him with a far superior force and one better equipped and by his defeat to crush the Texan rebellion which he would certainly have done had victory perched on his banner.

The story of the Alamo and later still the dastardly massacre of prisoners at Goliad were the incitants needful for Texans. There were only two views, "Victory or Death," or worse still slavery and greater tyranny. Then came a better spirit of unison and a strengthening of forces. The army was a small one, but it consisted of men who were noble, brave and desperate and who fought for liberty, country and home, the most noble of all aspirations for heroes. Houston and his forces retreated and increased strength and Santa Anna followed, despising the apparently puny Texan army and sanguine of success. The crisis came at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, when the two armies were arrayed before each other. The Texans abided their time, made a most desperate attack and came on the Mexicans like a tornado. The Mexicans fought well, but could not resist the desperate onslaught

of the Texans, they fell back, were routed and defeated, the field was strewn with the wounded and the slain and the waters engulfed many who tried to escape. Thus was Santa Anna's proud army practically annihilated and in twenty-four hours Santa Anna, who managed to escape from the field, was captured in disguise and stood a prisoner and suppliant for mercy before the wounded Texan hero, Sam Houston.

The rest of the story is a natural sequence. Santa Anna concurred in the Texan aspiration for liberty and signed a treaty to that effect and Houston, in humane spirit, saved his life though many clamored for the blood of the murderer of the brave men of the Alamo and Goliad and he, who had so tyrannically oppressed them.

Thus Texas became a free and independent republic is now an honored state in our glorious union.

The Alamo has been poetically called the cradle of Texan liberty and it is a truth in fact. It was the heroism of the Texas patriots there that inspired their compatriots and the cruelty of Santa Anna nerved them to desperation. The spirit of the Alamo martyrs led the San Jacinto heroes to victory.

Should we not then hold the Alamo as the most hallowed spot in this fair state and honor those who by their patriotism and bravery have made it famous?

Though the Alamo is located in San Antonio and is in charge of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas it belongs to the state and every Texan, no matter where he hails from, should have an equal pride and interest in it.

To the old the Alamo should be a perpetual reminder of the glories of the past and an encouragement for the future and to the young, it should be a sweet story, often read, and an inspirer of spirit of patriotism which cannot fail to make them the best of citizens.

Honor the Alamo! Revere the memory of those who bravely died that Texas might be free and let us do all possible to make it a grand and useful memorial to our illustrious dead.

CHAS. H. STANFORD.



LIST OF HEROES KILLED IN THE ALAMO

In the Texas Almanac for the year 1860 was found a list of the Texan Heroes who defended the Alamo when it was besieged by the Mexican Army commanded by General Santa Anna, and who all perished when that famous fortress was captured, March 6, 1836. This list differs from many that are published, but is believed to be accurate, having been completed from official and other authentic sources.

NAME.	RANK.	WHERE FROM.
W. Barrett Travis	Lt.-Col., Comdr.	
James Bowie	“ “	
J. Washington	Colonel	Tenn.
J. B. Bonham	Captain	South Carolina
— Forsyth	“	New York
— Harrison	“	Tenn.
W. Blazely	“	Louisiana
W. C. M. Baker	“	Miss.
W. R. Carey	“	Texas
S. B. Evans	“	Miss.
S. C. Blair	“	Texas
— Gilmore	“	Tenn.
John Jones	Lieutenant	
Almaron Dickinson	“	Louisiana
I. G. Baugh	Adjutant	
Chas. Despalier	Aide to Travis	
Robert Evans	Master of Ordn'ce	Ireland
Elial Melton	Lt. Quartermast'r	
— Anderson	Asst. “	

NOTE. — In cases where initials are not given and “where from” is not named, such particulars are missing from official records.

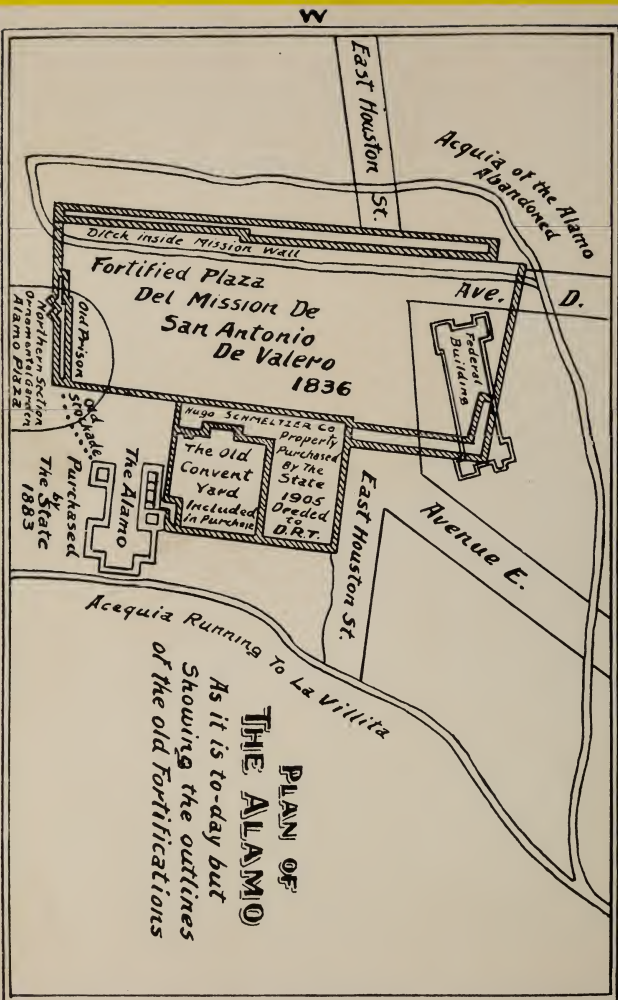
NAME.	RANK.	WHERE FROM
— Burnell	Asst. Qr. Master.	
— Williamson	Sergt. Major	
D. Michison	Surgeons	
Amos Pollard	"	
— Thompson	"	
Green B. Jemison	Ensign	
David Crockett	Private	Tennessee
E. Nelson	"	South Carolina
— Nelson	"	Texas
W. H. Smith	"	"
Lewis Johnson	"	"
E. T. Mitchell	"	Georgia
F. Desangue	"	Pennsylvania
— Thruston	"	Kentucky
— Moore	"	
Christopher Parker	"	Mississippi
C. Huskell	"	
*— Rose	"	Texas
John Blair	"	
— Kiddeson	"	
Wm. Wells	"	Tennessee
Wm. Cumming	"	Pennsylvania
— Valentine	"	
— Cochran	"	
R. W. Ballantine	"	
S. Halloway	"	
Isaac White	"	
— Day	"	
Robert Muselman	"	New Orleans
Robert Crossman	"	
Richard Starr	"	England
I. G. Garrett	"	New Orleans
Robert B. Moore	"	
Richard Dimkin	"	England
Wm. Linn	"	Mass.
— Hutchinson	"	

NAME.	RANK.	WHERE FROM.
Wm. Johnson	Private	Penn.
E. Nelson	"	
Geo. Tumlinson	"	
Wm. Deardoff	"	
Daniel Bourne	"	England
— Ingram	"	"
W. T. Lewis	"	Wales
Charles Zanco	"	Denmark
Jas L. Ewing	"	
Robert Cunningham	"	
S. Burns	"	Ireland
George Neggin	"	South Carolina
— Robinson	"	Scotland
— Harris	"	Kentucky
John Flanders	"	
Isaac Ryan	"	Opelonsas, La.
David Wilson	"	Texas
John M. Hays	"	Tenn.
— Stuart	"	
W. K. Simpson	"	
W. D. Sutherland	"	Texas
D. W. Howell	"	New Orleans
— Buttler	"	" "
Chas. Smith	"	
— Mc Gregor	"	Scotland
— Rusk	"	
— Hawkins	"	Ireland
Samuel Holloway	"	
— Brown	"	
T. Jackson	"	Ireland
Micaj Autrey	"	
Gregorio Esparza	"	San Antonio
— John	Clerk to Desangue	

To this must be added the gallant contingent from Gonzales, who came to the relief of Travis, after the Alamo was besieged, and perished with their comrades in its defense. Their names are as follows:

NAME.	RANK.	WHERE FROM.
George C. Kimbell	Lieutenant	Gonzales
James George	Sargeant	"
Dolphin Ward	Private	"
Thos. Jackson	"	"
Geo. W. Cottle	"	"
Andrew Kent	"	"
Thos. R. Miller	"	"
Isaac Baker	"	"
Wm. King	"	"
Jesse McKoy	"	"
Claiborne Wright	"	"
W. Fishback	"	"
Isaac Milsaps	"	"
Albert Martin	"	"
Galba Fuqua	"	"
John Davis	"	"
R. A. M. Thomas	"	"
Wm. Fuhbaugh	"	"
John G. King	"	"
Jacob Durst	"	"
M. L. Sewell	"	"
Robert White	"	"
A. Devault	"	"
John Harris	"	"
David Kent	"	"
W. E. Summers	"	"

* The only Rose in the defense is shown here, and is recorded as being killed at the Alamo. If he was killed he could not have escaped from the Alamo, prior to its fall, and could not, of course have told the story about Travis drawing the line as some one who claimed to be Rose, subsequently did. It may be that in the confusion and excitement of the times Rose did escape as he alleged and if so it is certainly more creditable to his prudence than his bravery or patriotism. It may also have been that the later Rose was an impostor, for many have made false claims to participation in the Alamo and its heroic fall and there are some who think this is so.



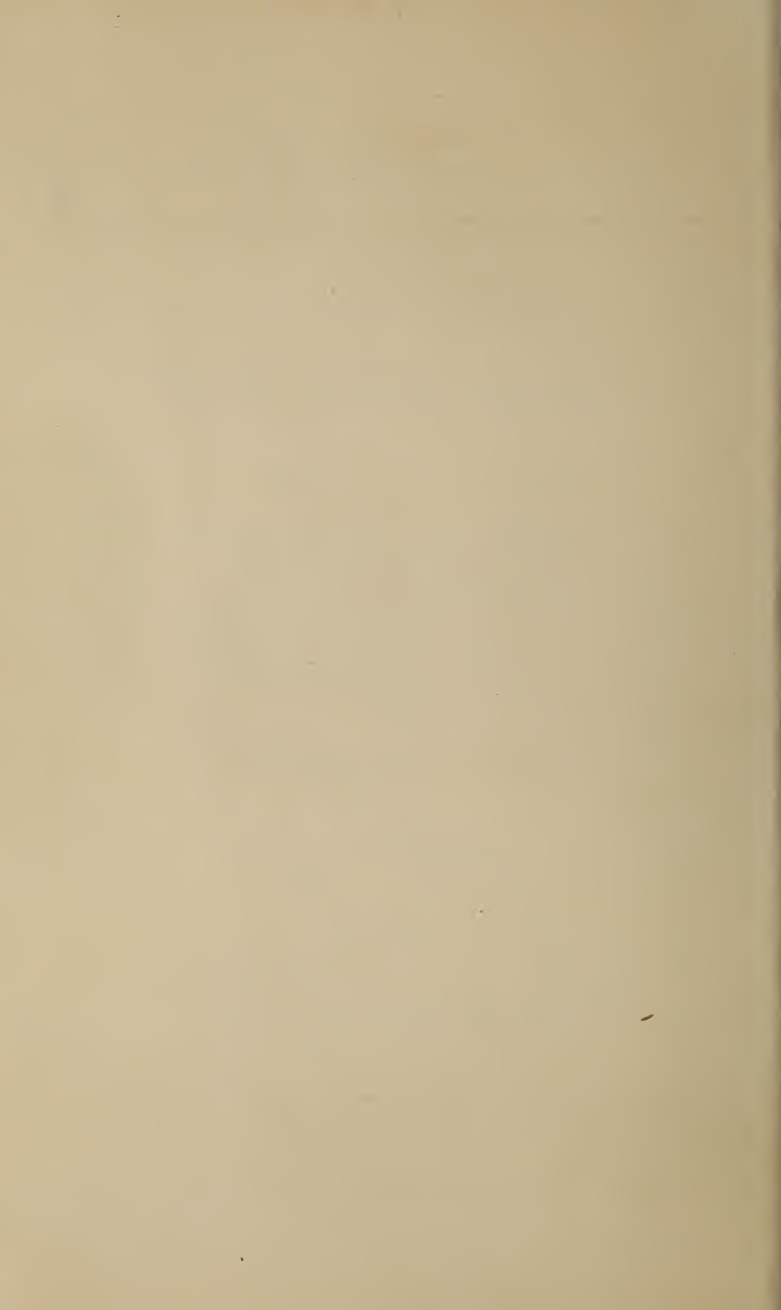
PLAN OF
THE ALAMO
As it is to-day but
Showing the outlines
of the old Fortifications

DESCRIPTION OF
THE ALAMO

AND ITS
HISTORIC POINTS

BY
HENRY RYDER-TAYLOR

WITH
AUTHENTIC DIAGRAM OF THE GROUNDS
WHEN THE ALAMO FELL IN 1836



Description Of The Alamo.

The Alamo, which is located in San Antonio, is one of the most interesting buildings in the United States, by reason of its romantic history. It has been called—and fitly, too—the cradle of Texan liberty, for its gallant defence, and the horrible massacre of the heroic defenders was one of the main incentives to the glorious victory at San Jacinto, whereby Texas independence was surely obtained.

The Alamo is one of the many missions established by the Franciscan fathers. These missions had a three-fold object—that of converting the Indians to the Catholic church, of educating settlers and defending them from attacks of hostile Indians, which were then a source of continual menace.

This mission was known as Mission del San Antonio de Valero, and was so called from St. Anthony of Padua and the Marquis de Valero, one of Spain's viceroys in Mexico. It is said to have been first established in the Cienega of the Rio Grande, then removed to Ildephonso and was afterwards retaken to the Rio Grande. In 1715 it was located at San Antonio, first at San Pedro Springs, then in the Military Plaza, and finally in its present location.

There are two dates on the Alamo 1744 and 1757. The first refers to the original building and the latter to the Alamo church which was rebuilt after the collapse.

From whence the name of Alamo was derived is also a

matter of speculation. Alamo is the Spanish name for cottonwood (a species of poplar), and these trees shaded the Alamo. It was not unnatural that the name was so derived. Another account, however, says that the first garrison came from Fort Alamo de Parras, in the Mexican state of Coahuila, and gave it the same name. Any way the building has long been known under that name.

The mission was secularized by royal edict in 1744. Though now in the heart of the city, it was then on the eastern outskirts, and was an ideal place for such a fortress as it then became.

But prior to secularization it was unquestionably occupied by priests of the Franciscan order; mass was said the usual religious services were conducted. Traces of this are apparent in many places.

The Alamo as we see it to-day, is quite a different thing to what it was in its original form, and in the memorable days of 1835-6, as the plan published herein well shows. It was a fortress in a sense, but an imperfect one, though formidable in those days. The Alamo church and convent were enclosed in a wall that was eight feet high and two and one half feet in breadth. This wall extended on the North away down Avenue D, and the present post office is included in the boundary. On the West side it came to the side walk of Alamo Plaza as it now exists. On the south side it ran to the circle of the now ornamental garden of Alamo Plaza and on the east side it extended to the ditch. The enclosure was calculated to accommodate one thousand men. It was evident that with such an expanse to guard, that Travis' small band would find great trouble in doing it. Within this structure was the two storied convent building, long and narrow with flat Alamo church and the roof for defense in military opera-

tions. It had a double arched gallery and in it were barracks, work rooms, living rooms, etc. There was considerable land behind, but little available for defense. The fortress was regarded as being the best means of defense.

It is, however, feared that although the records show that Cos and Travis placed the Alamo a state of defense, it was not a strong or good one, except for its solid walls.

The Alamo in its ecclesiastical sense, and as it was originally designed, was apparently quite another building, if we credit tradition and the logical deduction from the design. It appears that the Alamo bore remarkable resemblance to the Mission Concepcion and was built upon a similar, if not on the same plan. There was an ornamental front, as the ruins now show, and two towers at the northern and southern end of the front and in the centre was a belfry, which was used as a call to mass and for the purpose of raising alarm on the approach hostile Indians. That church collapsed in 1757 and then the present church was erected. This later church was laid out in the form of a cross and over the jointure of the arms was a large moresque dome. The altar was naturally at the eastern end. There was an arched ceiling supported by massive pillars and the roofing was of the gravel kind. At the west end was a gallery. There is no record of nuns in the convent, but it is quite easy to see that they could have attended mass by passing through the north upper room to the gallery from the convent and in that case the gallery would be latticed so that the nuns could see and not be seen as is often the case, in continental Europe and especially in Spain. The probability, however, seems that the gallery was used for a choir and maybe for Indian prisoners that the clergy would not deprive of the bless-

ings of the mass. The first room on the south side, going west from the altar was the sacristy and when Travis was besieged it was used as a powder magazine. The second room westward held the perpetual light and an alcove of stone, worn considerably, shows where it was located. This place, it is said, was used as a burial ground and many of the Franciscans fathers are buried here. At the western end of the church are four small rooms and their use is not quite understood. They were probably used as cells, confessional boxes or for some other church purposes. In the room on the northwest corner it is general credited that Bowie lay, when sick, and here he met his tragic death. In the southwest corner room, it is supposed, was the font for christening. In 1878, an elegantly carved font was unearthed, which is said to have been used for baptisms, but long before that another font was found and a mutilated statue which, it is supposed, occupied one of the niches at the side of the main entrance of the Alamo. These later relics are in possession of Mr. W. C. Freeman.

What a strange contrast the Alamo has presented. At first the mass was said, in all its solemnity. There was glory to God on the highest and on earth, peace and good will towards men. The time passed and the old church instead of being a heaven of peace, became the hot bed of bloody war.

The fall of the Alamo left the old church in a mutilated, ruined and bad condition, and strange to say it was neglected as an old building of no account, until 1849, when Major E. B. Babbitt, in the name of the United States, took possession of it, to use as a quartermaster's department. He found the old building roofless and filled with debris so that any could walk from the floor to the top of

of the walls. There was a general cleaning in which two bodies were found, said to be victims of the fall of the Alamo. Then the roof was fixed as it now exists and considerable, lumber alteration were added, notably a second story from where the original gallery had been. The United States used this as the quartermaster department till the war. Then the Confederates put it to the same use. At the close of the war the United States again occupied it and remained there until the department was removed to Fort Sam Houston.

During Major Babbitt's command there was a controversy between the city and the Roman Catholic Church as to its ownership, and the city sued Bishop Odin for the possession of the property. The appellate court gave judgment in favor of the bishop.

Later the church leased the property to Honore Grenet, who used it as a warehouse for stock and refuse.

Under the act of April 23, 1883, the state purchased the Alamo Church property, paying \$20,000 for it, and placed the Alamo in custody of the city of San Antonio on condition that it should care for it and pay a custodian for that purpose. The city then removed all the lumber work that Mayor Babbitt and others erected, and otherwise cleared the building and placed it in the form that it is now seen, presenting a far more agreeable view and something more like the structure of 1757 though so ruined, and changed.

This system continued until January 25, 1905, when the Texas Legislature passed a resolution ordering the governor to purchase that part of the old Alamo fortress, occupied by the Hugo and Schmeltzer Company for \$65,000 and it was further ordered that the governor should deliver the property thus acquired, with the property now owned by the State, (the chapel of the Alamo) to the Daughters

of the Republic of Texas, to be maintained by them in good order and repair, without charge to the state, as a sacred memorial to the heroes, who immolated themselves on that hallowed ground, to maintain and remodel it, provided that no changes be made in the Alamo Church proper except such as are absolutely necessary; all of the said property being subject to future legislation.

Governor Lanham on October 4, 1905, signed a deed, based on the resolution of the legislature deeding all of the old fortress of the Alamo, thus secured. The Daughters of the Republic have now charge of the Alamo and must provide for all necessary expenses. Their plans are lofty and they must rely on patriotic Texas for aid. The main idea is to remove the Hugo and Schmeltzer building which crowds and obscures the Alamo and to arrange the vacant grounds so that the Alamo can be well shown prominently, restore the convent building as it was originally and to be used as a museum. To do this patriotic Texans will be required to put up the necessary funds and there is little doubt the Daughters of the Republic of Texas will secure all the funds needed for this laudable purpose. If not the state legislature will be called upon to provide for the completion of the good work. If any visitor feels inclined to contribute to the necessary funds it is needless to say that such contributions will be thankfully received by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas

H. R-T.

THE ALAMO IN 1762



COMPILED FROM THE RECORDS
OF AN EYE WITNESS AND
OTHER SOURCES

The Alamo In 1762.

THERE seems to be no doubt that the Alamo as we see it to-day is not the Alamo that was originally founded, though it is probable that the same facade may have been in the same condition when it fell under Santa Anna's memorable charge.

We get a glimpse of the Alamo from a description of the Mission San Antonio de Valero, as seen in 1762, as appears in "The Makers of History," and from reminiscence and legends. The former details are from the pen of one who was an eye witness to what he saw and is credible.

From these accounts it would appear that at that time (1762) the Alamo was then a stately structure, about 150 varas square, located within a stone wall fence.

There was no doubt that the intention was to make this the principal mission of Texas; recognizing that in every way it was adapted to be the chief city of the province, and no money or labor was spared to make it so. The prescience of the founders is justified by the present state of the Alamo city.

The statement is made that the foundation stone of the Alamo was laid on May 8th, 1744, and the building was completed in 1757, but from all accounts it was of quite a different style to what we now see. It was more of the order of Mission Concepcion, had two large towers and a mosque dome, and the facade was elaborately carved—probably by Huica.

When seen by this eye witness the church had collapsed—probably from faulty foundations and bad architecture—and another church was being erected of hewn stone, and of pleasing architecture. In the mean time religious services were being held in the granary.

It is quite clear that the new church was erected, and there is nothing to show that was not the Alamo, as we see it to-day. The new form was plain and simple, with ornate trimmings, like many missions on the Pacific coast.

The convent section, that which is now occupied by Hugo-Schmeltzer Company building, was a prominent feature. It was a two story building connected with the church grounds and historically is equally as important as the old church. It had arcades to the upper and lower stories—galleries with arched fronts. There were domes arising above the gallery at each of the four corners, and there were parapets between the domes. It was on the western parapet, beside a gun, that Travis fell. There were large gates, leading to the interior, over which was a tower with embrasures, fitted with three cannon, and also with fire arms and ammunition. There was an inner court or patio with arched galleries. No mention is made of a garrison at that time and it is supposed that the Alamo was garrisoned later.

In the convent were the living rooms of the Franciscan fathers; dining room, kitchen and other offices. The porter had his lodge, which was no doubt on the inside of the gate. All the rooms were ornamented with religious designs and fixtures.

In the second court there was well located the factory, a large room in which there were four looms. Here the fathers, assisted by friendly Indians, wove fabrics of

cotton and wool shawls, blankets and other necessities. There were two other rooms, in which were stocks of wool and cotton, and other supplies.

It would appear that some Indians lived in the convent. Probably these were those educated for necessary work in the interior of the convent. Most of the Indians were on the outside raising cotton and corn and other necessities.

The ruin of the convent and damage to the church is easily understood. When the Alamo fell and Santa Anna went out to meet Houston's force and vanquish it, he left General Andrade in charge with 400 men. Santa Anna's orders were to fortify the Alamo and make it impregnable for fear he should miss the Texans and they would try to recapture it. This order was being obeyed when Santa Anna was defeated at San Jacinto. Then Andrade received orders, probably from Santa Anna before his capture, to demolish the fort and join the remnant of the Mexican army at Goliad. Andrade is recorded as having spent two days in his work of demolition and to have confined his main efforts to the convent. The four hundred men, it was said, almost razed the structure, and even its foundation could only barely be traced.

This is what some historians tell us it is quite probable that the convent was then materially damaged by Andrade's men but there are good citizens living to-day who say and are willing to swear that the convent walls existed long after and that they played within them. There are others now living that say Grenet in building his grocery store, simply repaired and raised those walls, adding then the castellated, mimic structure that disfigured it until the Storm King carried it away.

Whether the original walls of the convent remained or

not, there is no question that all that is contained therein should be sacred. The present lines any way mark the boundary line of the old convent and its confines are most historic. It was in the old convent that the Texan heroes were mainly quartered; it was here that Santa Anna made his main attack and it was here that Travis fell aside a cannon. It may be assumed, logically, that it was the scene of the main battle, for it is impossible to conceive that the large Mexican army and the Texan patriots could have fought in the limited confines of the Alamo church. The truth lies in the fact that the battle commenced in the convent and the last desperate scene ended in the old church.

It seems too equally clear that the bodies of the Texan patriots were burned in the convent courts and that it is really the mausoleum of our honored dead.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas are united in the idea of making a grand monument to the Texan patriots, but they are somewhat divided as to the way of doing it. Some would restore the church and the arcaded convent in all its original beauty, making a grand whole of the Alamo fort as it was originally, and there is no doubt that it would make a pretty and effective restoration, affording ample room for the museum and other attractive features. On the other hand there are others who believe that the present convent building should be torn down and the space it occupies thrown open, making a pretty park and garden that would display the Alamo church only as the sole object of interest. This would be pretty, no doubt, but it would ignore the convent—an older and equally important portion of the Alamo.

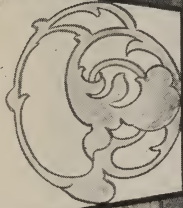
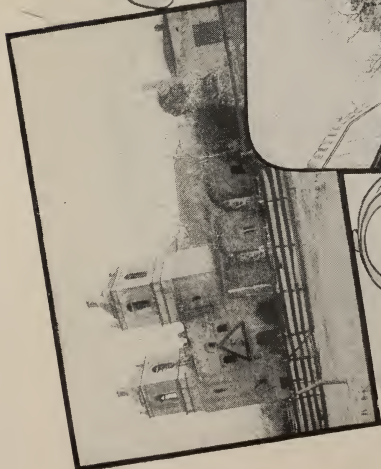
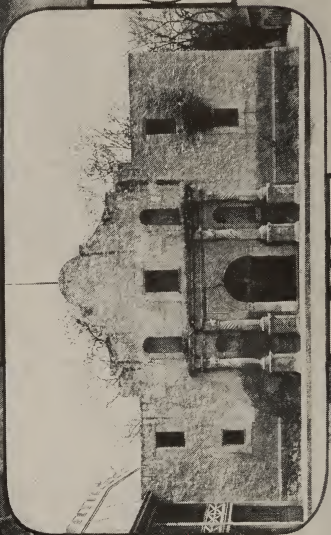
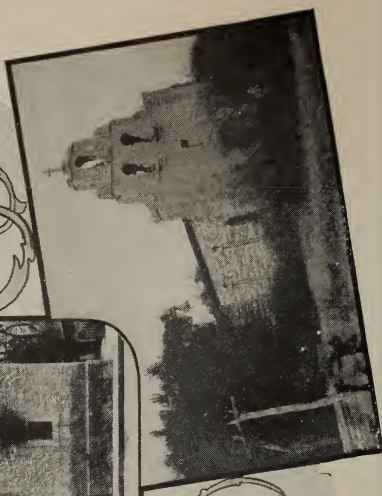
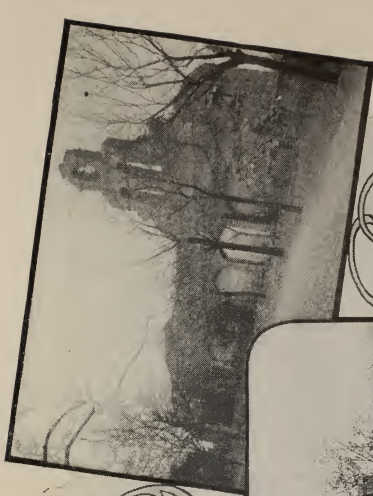
The property is deeded by the state to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, subject to future legislation, and it

may be fairly hoped that all will be settled on an equitable and honorable basis in public interests.

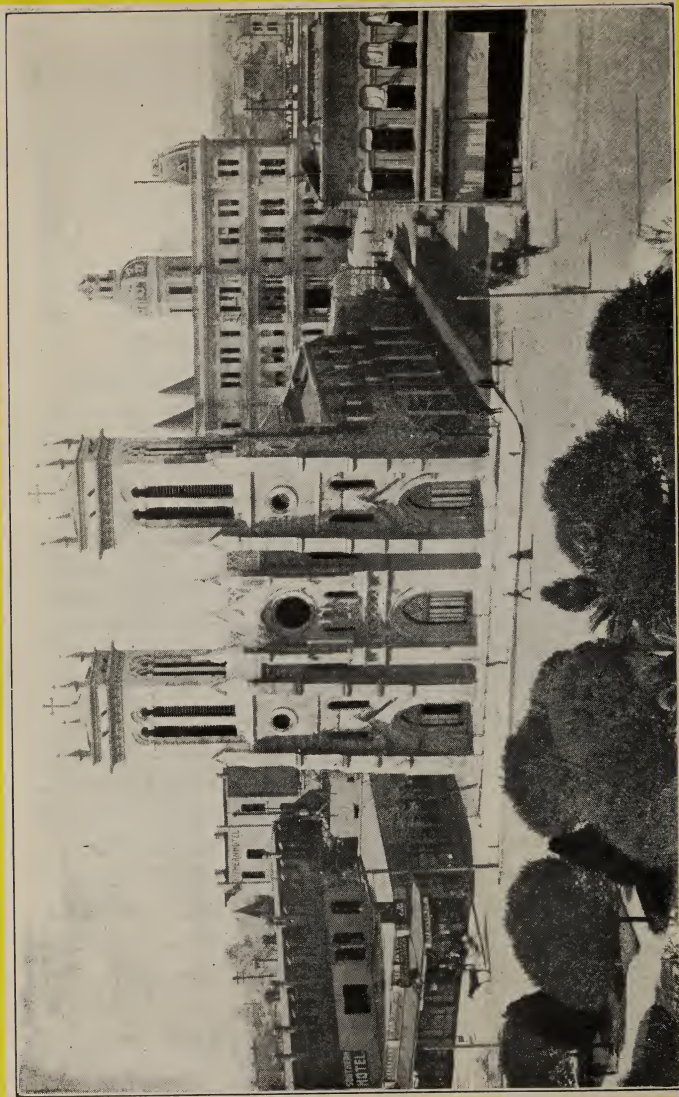
Anyway church suffered less, probably because of religious superstition inculcated by the Roman Catholic church, that the church is the house of God and anathema be to those who would despoil it. The Mexicans then, as now, were very superstitious.

The convent and the church are one and the same. It was in both that the Alamo heroes met their Mexican foes, and in both their blood was shed for liberty and the independence of Texas. And the State has done wisely to secure the ownership of the church and convent, and place it in charge of those noble ladies—Daughters of the Republic of Texas—who will see that it is carefully kept and made a grand memorial to the dead patriots who hallowed it with their life-blood, and in death gave birth to Texan liberty and independence. They may differ a little in the way of doing it, but all being interested in the great work and feeling their responsibility, will find a satisfactory solution of the difficulties presented in their laudable attempt to do their duty. And those who are true Texans, and the admirers of Texas, will gladly co-operate with the ladies in their grand, noble and patriotic work.

H. R-T.



The Four Missions
AND
San Fernando Cathedral



SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL.

IS NOT IMPROVED WITH THE CITY HALL IN THE BACK GROUND.

The Old Missions.

THERE is something peculiar in the antiquity and purport of the missions that are around San Antonio, and in other places on this western hemisphere. They are really of divine origin and a sequence of the command of the Savior to go into all lands and preach the Gospel. This command was obeyed by His disciples, carried on by His followers and to this missionary work is due the conversion of the greater part of Europe to Christianity.

The missionary work of this hemisphere is mainly due to the Franciscans, a religious order founded by San Francis of Assisi.

When Spain commissioned Columbus to find the El Dorado on the West and a new way to the Indies, the Pope sanctioned and blessed the expedition on condition that wherever it might plant a flag, zeal should be used for the promotion of the Christian religion and the Franciscans, for that reason, accompanied the expedition; and there were not only clerics but Franciscans who carried a sword in one hand and a Bible in the other. The same conditions prevailed in the Cortez expedition to Mexico and in other adventures of a like character, therefore wherever the flag of Spain was planted the cross was prominently displayed and honored in religious celebrations.

The Franciscans were zealous in their missionary work among the natives and, when a Spanish settlement was made, they would, after founding their mission work there, expand their field of operations and establish another mis-

sion dedicated to an honored saint. These made what was then a good fortification and protection from tribes of Indians, adversed to the Christian converts, and gave the means of safe religious and secular instruction. Such is the origin and intent of the missions that we see around us and are found in many other places.

The most most prominent of the missions in or near San Antonio is

THE ALAMO

but it is not the oldest and as it has been dealt with in all its phases in other parts of this volume there is no necessity for further comment.

The Alamo, standing prominently and alone, the other missions, in proportion to their distance. are designated as the First Mission, Second Mission, Third Mission and Fourth Mission, though each have their individual and ecclesiastical titles.

FIRST MISSION.

This is designated as the Mission de la Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion La Purissima de Acuna, so named in honor of the Virgin and Juan de Acuna, Marquis de Casa Fuertes, Viceroy of Mexico in 1722, but it is commonly known as the Mission Conception. Official records show that it was founded in 1716 and moved to its present site in 1730, but tradition has it that the corner stone was laid by Father Begara and Captain Perez in March, 1731. It is located on the left bank of the San Antonio River and about two miles from the city, and was, of course founded by the Franciscans.

The architecture is severely plain, though massive and imposing, and evidently of a moresque idea. There are two prominent towers which can be seen for miles around,

one of which was used for sacred vestments and other articles, and the other as a baptistery in which there was an altar and signs of various religious emblems. There are also traces of highly colored decorations in purple, orange and blue. The mission is of the cruciform design and the main entrance is at an interesting door between the two towers that is surmounted by a triangular facade, no doubt indicative of the Trinity. The auditorium is not large but lighted by a dome of singular beauty.

The mission was no doubt built of limestone, got in the vicinity, which is soft and easy to work but hardening on exposure to the air. It was originally surrounded by walls for defence and has barracks for accommodation of soldiers, of which traces remain, and granary for the storing of the crops of friendly Indians, who raised them in the adjacent lands. The acequia (ditch) running through the lands, gave an irrigation that added to the fruitfulness of the soil.

It was at this mission, on Oct. 28, 1835, that Col. James Bowie and Capt. J. W. Fannin, with 90 Texans, were surprised by a large detachment of the Mexican army (400 men), which surrounded them on three sides with the river to the rear. A fierce encounter ensued in which the Mexicans were defeated and fled to San Antonio, with a loss of 60 killed and 40 wounded. The Texans only lost one man, Robert Andrews. This was a good omen for it was the first fight between the Texan colonists and the Mexican troops.

There is one point of peculiar interest. It is said that the Alamo was originally of the same, or similar design, to the Mission Concepcion. The alteration to the present design was made after the collapse of the first Alamo church.

It may be added that the roof of this mission is of a pe-

culiar character and the view from it of the surrounding country is picturesque and interesting.

THE SECOND MISSION.

lies on the right bank of the San Antonio River, about four miles from the city. This Mission is styled La Mission de San Jose de Aguayo, and is named in honor of St. Joseph and Governor Aguayo, one of the Spanish governors of the province of Texas, but, in brief, as Mission San Jose. It was begun in 1723 but not completed until 1731.

This is the most beautiful of all missions, for here are the elaborate carvings of the celebrated Spanish sculptor, Juan Huica, who was sent here by the King of Spain to execute that work.

The main entrance, with grand facade, was carved in bold relief. On that side were fine statues of the Virgin, San Jose, San Benedict, San Augustine and San Francisco. Crowning this was a representation of the Immaculate Concepcion, cherubs, heads, sacred hearts and concho shape canopies. These carvings were not only beautifully artistic but they are realistic.

The remarkable window above the archway with its beautiful wreath, graceful lines and boldness is still in good preservation and has been pronounced by visiting connoisseurs as the finest specimen of church windows extant.

There is only one tower. It is 68 feet high and is in Gothic style. It has four look-out windows and a pyramidical stone roof.

In the south wall of the large chapel is a round tower. In it was a spiral staircase leading to the belfry which had solid hewn, wooden steps.

There was a spacious dome, but it fell in with a thundering crash in 1868. Most of the large stone roof and part of the north wall has since been destroyed.

The entrance to the chapel is from a wing of the cloisters on the south side and the arch and sides stones are artistically carved in bass relief, angels heads being presented in each side.

In this chapel a window of even greater beauty is found on the south side, which is noted for its elaborate carving and graceful scroll work. There is a peculiar harmony in the work that excites general admiration and the more it is examined the greater is the appreciation of this masterpiece of Huica.

The cedar doors were most elaborately carved but much has been destroyed by vandals and visitors. Enough, however, remains to bear testimony to the artistic merits of the sculptor and to give a good idea of the greatness of the work.

THE THIRD MISSION

is the Mission de San Juan Capistrano, commonly called Mission San Juan, and is located on the right bank of the San Antonio River, six miles below the city. It was named after a Franciscan friar who was born at Caspistrano, Italy, in 1386.

This mission was erected in 1731 and differs from all others in the plainness and simplicity of its architecture.

The tower consisted of three open arches and in the middle arch, which alone remains, a bell is hung.

The chapel is roofless with the exception of one small room, and here are traces of crude frescoing.

The mission had its walls and grannaries, but little remains to tell of its former greatness and utility but the ruins of the church and monestary which have yielded much to the decaying hands of time.

THE FOURTH MISSION

is on the San Antonio River, about nine miles from the city. It is ecclesiastically styled the Mission San Francisco de la Espada. It was established about the same time as the other missions, first on the Medina River and then, in 1730, on its present site.

In this locality was originally the site of the first Spanish mission, according to the report of the Count Revillo-Gigido, Viceroy of Mexico to the King of Spain, dated Dec. 27, 1793. From that account it appears that in 1689 Don Alfonso de Leon, Governor of Coahuila, visited the site of San Antonio for the first time in returning from an expedition to drive out La Salle, and was so pleased with it and the people (Indians) that he established a mission here and placed it in charge of Fra Damien Marquet. It was first called the Mission de San Francisco de Tegas, but Governor Domingo de Teran, visiting here in 1691, caused the name of the mission to be changed to the Mission de San Francisco de la Espada. What was the form or extent of this mission there is no record, but it seems to have been abandoned in 1693 and all trace of the old mission is lost. It was only in 1716 that the work to re-establish the mission commenced.

Both the old and new missions were, it will be seen, named in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the monastic order of the Franciscans. The "de la Espada" has reference to the time when St. Francis was debating, after illness, whether he should become a soldier of the cross or of his country.

The architecture of the present mission is as plain as that of the Third Mission.

The tower has three open arches and bells are hung in

each, and three times each day they are heard by all in the vicinity.

The door of the chapel is unique and supposed to be of the Moorish character.

The enclosing walls are still seen and projecting from them is a small, round tower. Near the base of this are three round cannon holes and at eight feet from the ground are seven musket holes. There is no doubt that in those days it was a formidable protection against hostile Indians.

This present mission has been somewhat restored but the front of it is in its original condition.

And the old is sweetly blended with the new. Its pastor, the Rev. Father Boucher, who has been in charge for forty years and loves the mission as if it were a child, holds service as was done when the mission was first established. The veteran father is as energetic as he is enthusiastic, and with his own hands has built a comfortable priest's house in the walls of the old convent.

It was here that the Texan colonists first encamped on their way to attempt the capture of San Antonio, but they later moved nearer the city and sojourned at the Mission Concepcion.

FRANCISCANS PRACTICAL WORKERS

Of course the first main object of the Franciscan was to give spiritual instructions, but they went farther and gave the Christian Indians practical instructions in farming and in the best way of living and raising crops. They inculcated irrigation, so much appreciated now, and this was done by acequias (ditches) and with water drawn from the river nearby; and the crops were protected from the marauding Indians by the mission granneries. A well supplying pure drinking water was at each mission. Thus there was around the missions large colonies of good, prosperous

Indians. The reverend fathers were fathers indeed, not only in spiritual matters but in their worldly affairs, and an affectionate bond existed, as it should do, between the pastor and his people to their mutual advantage.

SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL

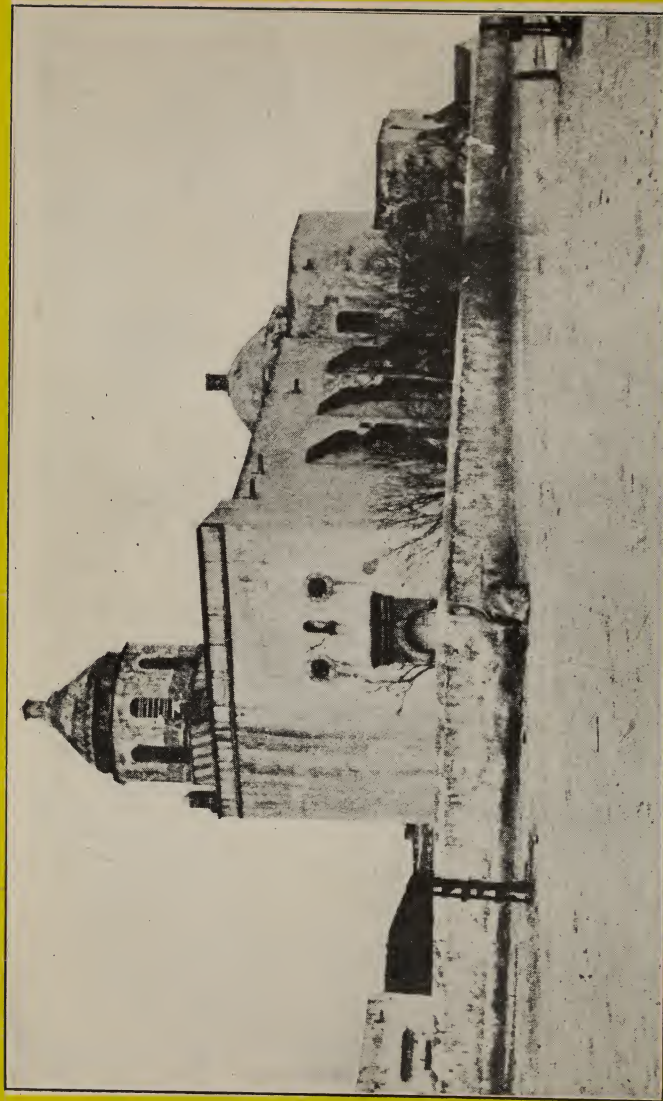
This sacred edifice, though not exactly a mission, partook greatly of the mission characteristics in its pristine days. It was the old parish church and was built by public subscription May 13, 1734.

It was erected on the Plaza de los Islas (now Main Plaza) wherein the original Spanish settlers, who came from the Canary Islands, were located, and the rear end was in the Plaza de Armes (Military Plaza) where the military garrison had its quarters. On either side of it was the First Catholic Cemetery. This was afterwards moved to a site that now fronts Santa Rosa hospital and, later, transferred to the Alazan.

It was from the roof of this church that Santa Anna fired on the Alamo before its memorable fall, and where his red flag, indicating "no mercy to the beseiged," fluttered in the breeze.

The only part of the old church that still remains is the rear section that fronts the city hall. This is in a good state of preservation. Its massive octagon shaped walls and beautiful dome indicate that the old church was of the moresque style of architecture and was unquestionably a handsome building for those days.

In 1868 it was decided to enlarge the parish church and and convert it into a cathedral for the new diocese. The old front was torn away and the present front was erected but for a long time it was not completed according to the original design. Recently, however, a second tower has been added, the statue of San Fernando was placed in



THE ORIGINAL SAN FERNANDO CHURCH

BEFORE BEING REMODELLED FOR THE PRESENT CATHEDRAL. THE REAR PORTION WITH THE CUPOLA
IS STILL STANDING AND IS IN DAILY USE

the vacant niche and the facade materially and artistically improved. A beautiful chime of bells was added to the tower and the bells ring out at morn, noon and eve.

One of the main objects of interest is the beautiful carved pulpit. It was rescued from Mission San Jose and is one of the treasures of the church. There are also some fine altars in memory of distinguished citizens.

It is a matter of ancient report that the ashes of the heroes of the Alamo, so dastardly burned by Santa Anna, were buried in the church, but all efforts to locate them have failed.

The cathedral, under the bishop, is practically in charge of the Franciscan brotherhood and the members work on the lines of the old Franciscan missionaries.

The congregation of the cathedral are mainly Spanish and Mexicans, and that they are devout is attested by the large congregations at each service.

The good work of the Franciscan pioneers has yielded a rich harvest to the Catholic church and endeared the brethren to the memory of the faithful.



HOW
THE ALAMO
AND
CONVENT GROUNDS
WERE PURCHASED
BY THE STATE

The Convent Purchased.

WHEN the Alamo Church became the property of the state, it was badly obscured by the commercial lumber structure, that was subsequently built on a part of the old convent yard which figured so prominently in the fall of the Alamo.

Honore Grenet in building his store on that part of the site erected two large and mimic towers, perhaps infused with patriotism and as an advertising feature. He called it the Alamo, had its roof in castellated form and towers with mimic, formidable looking guns. The elements, were kind and, in an unusual storm, for this section the towers and mimic guns were blown away and there was no general mourning for the loss.

There is in Texas a grand organization of ladies that are known as the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The members are ladies who are lineally descended to those who fought for the freedom of Texas. The San Antonio chapter is named after De Zavala, a Spaniard who was a firm friend of the Texan patriots and his distinguished granddaughter, Miss Adina De Zavala, is now at the head of it. Miss De Zavala is a hard and enthusiastic worker and devoted her time, energies and limited means heartily to the good cause. Other ladies have worked hard and honorably to memorialize the dead and to inculcate the spirit of patriotism in the living. To the De Zavala Chapter San Antonio owes the monument to Ben Milam, the marking with marble slabs,

the most interesting historic points and to the maintenance of interest in the events of the past.

The Daughters of the Republic decided that, whereas the state had secured the Alamo church it should also secure the remaining part of the old fortress, which was then occupied by Hugo-Schmeltzer Co. Such a property in the heart of the city was valuable—most valuable—but the ladies proposed to acquire it, to tear down the hideous structure, restore the convent to its original form with its moresque arched gallery, convert it into a historical museum and put ornate gardens in the old court making it a grand memorial to the martyrs of the Alamo.

The Daughters of the Republic began to work, and with heart and soul, to attain their object, but they soon found they had a hard row to hoe. Collecting money, even for a most worthy cause, is usually a slow and thankless task. The daughters worked hard, Judge Clarence Martin and others worked well, aided them, but the funds came in slowly and the outlook was by no means encouraging.

In a trade for good property sympathy and patriotism do not count much. The main factors are dollars and cents and those are needed for business. Then came Miss Clara Driscoll with a heart of love, youthful enthusiasm and the means to do good and she worked with the daughters with all possible ardor.

The De Zavala Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas were grateful for her timely aid and appointed Miss Driscoll chairman and treasurer of the Alamo Mission fund. Notes that had been made for payment became due and there was not the required funds in the treasury and they must be met or the property lost for there were private individuals who were anxious to acquire the property for an hotel site and even at a much higher price. Then

Miss Driscoll generously advanced the balance of the funds needed for the purchase of the convent grounds. The deed was made to her personally but it recited that it was purchased for the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

The state legislature on January 25, 1905, on motion of Fergus O'Kyle, appropriated \$65,000 for the purchase of the Hugo-Schmeltzer Co. property, appropriating \$25,000 for the first year and \$40,000 for the second year, 1906. The current payments were to pay the financial obligation to Miss Driscoll and the remainder of the appropriation was to pay the balance of the purchase money. Miss Driscoll is delighted to have been the means of securing the property for the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and that it will be preserved by the state. And the people have well shown hearty appreciation of her laudable patriotism.

Under the resolution for the purchase of the property Miss Clara Driscoll conveyed all her right title and interest in the property to the state as did the mayor, Bryan Callaghan, the Roman Catholic Church by Bishop Forest and the executors of Mrs. Gallagher. The state then, as per resolutions deeded, not only the Hugo-Schmeltzer Co., property, recently purchased, but also the Alamo Church purchased by the State in 1883, and then nominally in custody of the City of San Antonio, to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to be maintained in good order and repair without charge to the state as a sacred memorial to the heroes, who perished on the hallowed ground, to be maintained and remodelled, provided that no changes be made in the Alamo church proper but such as be absolutely necessary; all of the said property to be subject to future legislation.

Thus the whole of the Alamo fortress is in charge of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and is in of the best

care. Let us honor the good work these patriotic ladies have done and let us aid the Daughters of the Republic in making the Alamo the grandest monument for the greatest heroes of the world—the men, who died that we might be free, independent of foreign tyranny and have peace and prosperity within the borders of the Lone Star State

HENRY RYDER-TAYLOR



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SPECIAL NOTICE—NOTE:

For further information on the Alamo, Missions and San Antonio the reader is referred to the VISITORS' GUIDE, by the same author and publisher. It is carefully compiled and sold by all news agents and curiosity dealers for 25 cents.

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There's many a pearl along our path,
Which our dim eyes yet fail to see,
For our mad men to reach the goal,
While no bright goal can ever be.

